

NEBRASKA

INSIDE CORNHUSKER SPORTS

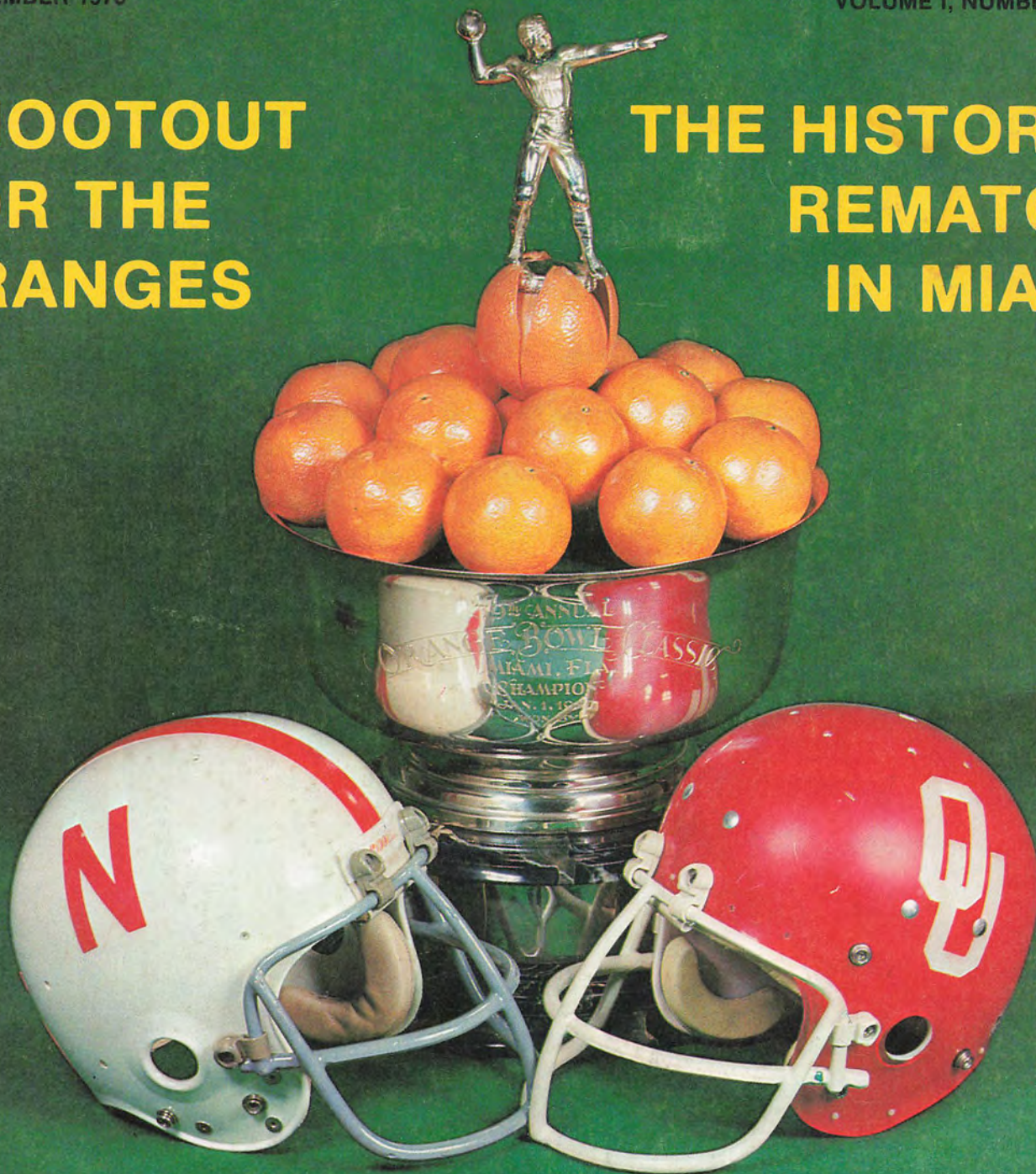
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DECEMBER 1978

VOLUME I, NUMBER 1

**SHOOTOUT
FOR THE
ORANGES**

**THE HISTORIC
REMATCH
IN MIAMI**



FIRST ISSUE — A COLLECTOR'S ITEM!!



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

Dear Friends:

In my many years in the sports world, I have had the opportunity to attend sporting events all over the United States. This past November, however, I had what I consider to be my greatest moment in sports—I attended my first Nebraska football game.

The day was cold—quite uncomfortably so for a West Coast boy, but I had merely to enter the stadium, climb into the elevator to the press box to get relief. No sooner was I comfortably inside than I looked down on the field to see the band preparing for its pre-game activities.

Cup of coffee in one hand, and a Nebraska corn-fed beef sandwich in the other, I settled back in the comfort of one of the finest press boxes in the country to enjoy what I knew would be a great football game.

As the band began to march, and tens of thousands of red-clad rooters began to sway back and forth, something came over me. I had an overwhelming urge to go back down into the stands and see for myself if all the stories I had heard were indeed true.

The experience was unlike any other I have ever had. 76,000 people united with a common purpose for three hours.

I thought of all the unrest and disharmony that we have in this country today and how great it was to see that many people with the same cause, the same goal. There was no way Oklahoma was going to win that football game!

Completely frozen following the game, I searched for words to describe to my friends on the West Coast what I had seen. There is no way to describe it—a Nebraska football game must be experienced to be believed.

There is a lot of talk today about the insignificance of football and other sports in relationship to other opportunities that our universities provide. Many feel that the only lessons sports offer are those learned on the field of play itself. At many universities, I am sure this is true. But at Nebraska, the big lesson is learned in the stands, and I for one consider it an honor to be a part of it.

The people of Nebraska have a message, and we at Nebraska Magazine intend to take this message to the entire nation by telling the story of Nebraska sports 20 times a year. You deserve the best. You are the best—we will not let you down.

Warmest personal regards,



Thomas R. LeDuc
President

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NEBRASKA

INSIDE CORNHUSKER SPORTS

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Don "Fat Fox" Bryant

The Fox Remembers — **The 1972 Team — Devaney's Last Season, A Heisman for Rodgers, An Outland for Glover, The Last Orange Bowl**

The thing I remember most about the last Orange Bowl was the fact that it was Bob Devaney's last football game as head coach of Nebraska. Everybody at the start of the season was set on going for the third straight national championship. The fact that we were national champions and that it was Devaney's last year, as well as the fact that we were rated number one in all the pre-season polls, caused a lot of build-up and excitement. Johnny Rodgers was the top candidate for the Heisman Trophy and Rich Glover was the top candidate for the Outland Trophy and the Lombardi Award. There was a lot more excitement around here than there had been in a long time before the season started.

Our high hopes and anticipation ended when UCLA beat us in the first game of the season—that snapped our 32-game win streak and really put a damper on the start of the season. It was a great game though. Efren Herrera kicked a 30-yard field goal for the Bruins to win the game with 22 seconds showing on the clock. Tom Harmon's son, Mark Harmon, was the quarterback for UCLA. We had a good team even though we lost, 20-17. It was Dave Humm's first football game and he came out like a champion. He threw a 44-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at 17-17.

After the loss to the Bruins we came back and beat Texas A&M 37-7. The next week we went on regional television and beat Army 77-7 in a real mismatch. We got some criticism for rolling up the score, but Devaney was playing everybody he could and they were still scoring.

The next week we beat Minnesota 49-0. In the first Big 8 game we beat Missouri 62-0. Ironically, Missouri rebounded the next week and went out and beat Notre Dame.

After Missouri we continued to roll as we shut out the Kansas Jayhawks 56-0. We

had now scored 167 points in three games and not given up a single point to our opponents. We continued rolling the next week and beat Oklahoma State 34-0 to make it four straight games without a single point allowed.

The streak ended the next week when we beat Colorado 33-10. Now we were 6-1 on the season.

We suffered our second big blow of the season when Iowa State tied us 23-23. They scored on a touchdown pass with less than a minute to go. We were ahead 23-17 before they scored. They tried for the PAT and failed, otherwise they would have won the game.

We rebounded the next week and beat Kansas State 59-7. Our season record was a very respectable 7-1-1. The loss and the tie came in the final seconds of each game.

In the finale against Oklahoma the Sooners kicked a field goal late in the fourth quarter and beat us 17-14. That was Devaney's last game here in Lincoln. I had it all planned out so that when the final gun went off the band would play "Auld Lang Syne." They were all rehearsed and ready to go but after the loss we decided to scrap the mission. So, the band played it real quickly so nobody could hear it. It was kind of sad for Devaney to lose his last game in Lincoln after all the thrills and excitement he had given the people for all the years.

Anyway, the loss to the Sooners cost us the Big 8 title.

Before the Oklahoma game Devaney had run a bluff with the Sooners to get the Orange Bowl bid. Bob said that the way they would decide who went to the Orange Bowl would be by who won the Nebraska-Oklahoma game. The loser just wouldn't go to a bowl. Well, Oklahoma didn't like that offer because I think they were afraid of losing and not going to a bowl at all. So, they decided to go to the Sugar Bowl and we

took the Orange Bowl. We were going to go to Miami win, lose, or draw with the Sooners just because Devaney had run a bluff and won. That worked out well for us.

When we got down to Miami it wasn't as intense as bowl games the years before because we knew we weren't playing for the national championship.

I tried to spice up the contest by emphasizing the great Notre Dame-Nebraska rivalries during the 1920's and 1930's. I talked about the great days of Knute Rockne, the time we beat the Four Horsemen, and all those things. It added a little interest and drama to what just might have been a ho-hum match.

We were rated fourth by AP and ninth by UPI when we went down to Florida.

Devaney did an interesting thing during the practice sessions before the game. Johnny Rodgers had won the Heisman Trophy as a wingback. Devaney figured that Notre Dame would be keying on Rodgers' wingback play and so he moved him to the I-back.

It was really something to see Rodgers in that game. He proved over and over that he was the best football player in the country. He carried the football 15 times and gained 81 yards for a 5.4 average. He scored three touchdowns on runs of eight, four, and five yards. He also caught a pass from Dave Humm and ran fifty yards to score a fourth time. Already Rodgers had established a record for total points scored in the Orange Bowl. But Rodgers was not done yet. He threw a 52-yard touchdown pass to Frosty Anderson. Amazingly, he provided the impetus for 30 of Nebraska's 40 points. That was a heck of a win and a heck of a show for Devaney's last game.

The defense was tenacious as they held Notre Dame to 104 yards on the ground and 103 yards in the air. It was 30-0 before the Irish even got on the scoreboard.

The 1973 Orange Bowl was just a great game for Nebraska and a great finish to Bob Devaney's career. We were just a much better football team than Notre Dame. We were much quicker, and, of course, the team was fired up because it was Devaney's final game.

Notre Dame did have one player who I thought was just a super kid. I met him at several gatherings and I thought he was not only a great player, but also a real gentleman. His name was Dave Casper. Of course, in my opinion, he's the best tight end in professional football. He was a fine young man when I met him in Miami. Now he is the best in the NFL.

Another great thing about the 1972 team was that we had four All-Americans on the squad. Willie Harper, Rich Glover, Johnny Rodgers, and Daryl White all were named

1972 All-Americans. That's pretty unusual to have four on one team. In fact, one of the most prized possessions I have in my collection of memorabilia is a football autographed by four All-Americans. They were four great kids and I liked them all.

You know, Johnny Rodgers was a great champion. Others didn't always come to play on game day, but Johnny came to play and gave his most every game. He was an incredible athlete who really deserved the Heisman. Lots of people were talking about some trouble Rodgers had had with the law. Well, we figured that if they were going to give a citizenship award then Johnny wouldn't be the one to receive it. But if they were going to give an award for the best football player in the country, then it had to be Johnny Rodgers.

On the morning when we knew they were going to announce the Heisman, we got a call from the committee and they were looking for Rich Glover. This guy calls and asks for Glover, and I think they've picked Glover for the Heisman—you know they hadn't picked a lineman since Leon Hart.

So I get all excited. Well, what happened was that Rodgers was living with Glover in a house in Jersey City and the Heisman committee was trying to run down Glover so they could tell Rodgers that he had won the award.

We all went back to New York for the awards ceremony. The whole thing was very formal, everybody in tuxedos, a lot of big name people were there. Anyway, Rodgers was tremendous. He gave a speech that left grown men with tears in their eyes. The whole thing was very emotional.

Rodgers ended up an awesome player on and off the field. He proved himself all season long, at the Heisman banquet, and at the Orange Bowl. In a way I think it was very fitting for Devaney to have a player of his calibre on his final team.

After the whole thing was over we were all kind of emotionally drained as we thought back on the great Devaney years. The 40-6 win over Notre Dame was perhaps the best way for Bob to step down. It was a great year for us all, a great year. ■

Johnny "The Jet" Rodgers, showed why he was named the Heisman Trophy winner in his stellar performance against Notre Dame in the 1973 Orange Bowl. Accounting for 30 of the Huskers' 40 points, Rodgers showed the world that he was the best.



ORANGE BOWL PREVIEW

THE HISTORIC REMATCH IN MIAMI

by Steve Pederson

Colorado Coach Bill Mallory was quoted a few days before the Nebraska-Oklahoma Shootout #8 as saying "this is the best Oklahoma team I've ever seen and this is the best Nebraska team I've ever seen. I'd have to say they're the two best teams in the country." Tom Osborne and Barry Switzer sounded like the star pupils at a positive reinforcement seminar when they held their joint press conference the day before the game. "Oklahoma is the the best offensive football team in the country" quipped Osborne. "Nebraska can do so many things offensively that they keep you off balance" Switzer shot back. The Huskers did win the ball game on Nov. 11 by a score of 17-14, but Tom and Barry, you were both right.

Seldom do the two best offensive football teams in the country meet in one season, let alone twice in a season. The 1979 Orange Bowl will feature a rematch between undisputedly the two best offensive teams in college football, Nebraska versus Oklahoma. No brag, just fact.

With the regular season over, the Huskers and Sooners dominate all of the national offensive statistics. The Huskers rank number one in the nation in total offense with 501.4 yards per game, the Sooners are second averaging 489.3 yards per contest. In the national rushing and scoring stats, it's the Sooners leading the way with the Huskers a close second. OU is running at a 427.5 yards per game clip and the NU squad is averaging 337.7 yards per game. In scoring, again Oklahoma leads with 40 points per game and the Nebraska team is producing 38.2 points each game. Put those two teams on the field twice in one season and what do you have? Two very tired defenses.

Let's take a closer look at these two teams and maybe you can make a more accurate prediction on the outcome of the Orange Bowl. If the coaches poll done by the Omaha World Herald for All Big 8 selections indicates anything, it would seem that Big 8 coaches seem to feel that Nebraska and Oklahoma have the best personnel across the board. Eight of the eleven offensive picks and seven of the eleven defensive selections came from Oklahoma and

Nebraska, a small indication of the strength of position.

TIGHT END: Nebraska's Junior Miller is one of the really outstanding athletes on the Husker squad. Miller led the Huskers in receptions with 30 catches for 560 yards. Many times during the season, he was able to break the game wide open with a reception. In addition, Junior is a great runner after he catches the ball. His OU counterpart is four-year letterman Victor Hicks. A great athlete, Hicks is a valuable blocker with his 254-pound frame. Hicks has the experience over Miller, but the All-Big 8 squads name Miller as their choice at tight end.

INTERIOR LINE: There is a reason as to why an offense can roll up 500 yards a game, and the strength of both these teams lies in their outstanding offensive lines. The Sooners are led by Outland Trophy winner Greg Roberts. The Outland is given to the best lineman in the country and the 260-pound Roberts fits into that category. With Roberts anchoring the quick OU offensive line, other well known names spring up. Paul Tabor, a 242-pound left guard is another outstanding blocker. In the center of that line is Jody Farthing, a standout athlete with great quickness. The other starters are left tackle Louis Oubre (250) and three-year letterman Sam Claphan (270). The Huskers are equally impressive up front with All-American Kelvin Clark (275) heading up the group. Clark is the Huskers only consensus All American and Coach Tom Osborne calls him "possibly the best offensive lineman ever to play at Nebraska." A big billing considering NU greats in the past years. Right guard Steve Lindquist (250) was an All Big 8 selection in every poll. He is a great pass blocker and pulling guard. In the center position could be the most underrated player on the Husker offensive unit. Kelly Saalfeld was the big question mark at the beginning of the season, but Osborne seems to feel the question has been answered. Barney Cotton switched from defense to offense this season and played well enough to earn all conference second team honors. The other starter in the NU line is tackle Tom Ohrt (244) a solid performer all season. Many feel that the game will be won in the trenches and these are the people who are

going to make a difference.

RECEIVERS: Although neither team has an All Big 8 receiver, both split ends are constant threats to score. Nebraska junior Tim Smith is a two-year starter and has 19 catches for 241 yards. He and Frank Lockett will alternate with the plays and are both capable of making the big catch. The Sooners, although not a passing ball team, also have a fine receiver in Bobby Kimball, 12 receptions for 198 yards. But that is deceiving when you consider how little the Sooners pass. Both Kimball and Coach Galen Hall are confident of his abilities. "With the receivers we have, no one can stop us consistently. We can have a lot of success throwing the ball," says Kimball.

QUARTERBACKS: When you look at the NU-OU quarterback matchup, you have the best runner, Thomas Lott of Oklahoma and one of the best passers, Tom Sorley of Nebraska in the Big 8. Lott is rushing at the pace of an I-Back with 111 carries for 577 yards. He is the general of the OU offense,



The incomparable Billy Sims, the 1978 Heisman Trophy winner, must be contained if the Cornhuskers hope to stay in the game. Sims, only a junior, rushed for over 1700 yards this last season.

Ted Kirk photo



The Orange Bowl Stadium—famous for its halftime shows, famous for its rabid fans, and most of all, famous for the annual nightly clash on New Year's day. The last time Nebraska traveled to Miami, they trounced Notre Dame 40-6.

and many feel that if you shut Lott down, you shut down Oklahoma. Sorley is running the offense that ranks number one in the nation in total offense. Sorley can do so many things well, and although he cannot run like Lott, he is hitting on 102 of 174 passes for 58%, giving the Huskers a threatening passing attack. Lott is everybody's All Big 8 selection, but don't sell Tom Sorley short.

RUNNING BACKS: This is where the Orange Bowl will be set apart from all the other Bowl games featuring two of the really great running backs in the country. Heisman Trophy winner Billy Sims of Oklahoma and Rick Berns of Nebraska. Sims is one of the most explosive runners in Sooner history, and they have had some great ones. This season he ran for 1762 yards on 231 attempts and leads the nation in rushing and scoring with 20 touchdowns. He is truly an All-American and a constant game breaking threat. On the other side is Nebraska's Berns. After spending the first part of the season at fullback, he came into his own when he switched back to I-Back at mid-season. He finished the season with 933 yards and was the ABC-TV Player of the Game in Shootout #8. In the final game

of the season he picked up a record setting 255 yards. Although Sims and Berns receive most of the press, the Huskers have another All Big 8 performer in wing-back Kenny Brown. Brown is feared because he can do so many things. He is a fine runner as well as a receiver. OU full-back Kenny King is another big threat in the middle of that explosive Sooner offense gaining 779 yards. I.M. Hipp is a second team All Big 8 pick as a Husker second team player. Hipp's breakaway speed is a constant threat to make the big play. The two other backs are David Overstreet of OU and Andra Franklin of NU. Both are outstanding runners, Franklin is an especially good blocker.

DEFENSIVE ENDS: Nebraska's George Andrews and Oklahoma's Reggie Mathis are consensus All Big 8 picks at the end spots. Andrews has also been named an All-American for his 73 tackles and overall leadership of the blackshirts. He was the leading tackler for the NU line. Mathis is an outstanding athlete and has a total of 80 tackles and 10 sacks behind the line. Both are exciting to watch because of their speed and quickness and have to be listed as two of the better players in the country.

Holding down the opposite positions are OU's Bruce Taton, 59 tackles, and for the Huskers either Derrie Nelson or L. C. Cole. Both have had outstanding seasons and kept the competition for the blackshirt fierce.

DEFENSIVE LINE: The comparison of the NU-OU defensive lines looks like a page from who's who in the Big Eight conference. Oklahoma's Phil Tabor and Reggie Kinlaw and Nebraska's Rod Horn are All Big 8 selections and with only three down line-men spots, that doesn't leave too many openings. Kinlaw, the middle guard, has 120 tackles while Tabor has 106. Add to that John Goodman's 113 tackles and between the three, they have 339 tackles. That doesn't leave much for your secondary to do during 60 minutes of football. The Huskers are equally impressive down front, but Osborne has six people he can play with confidence. The middle guard is quick, second team all conference Kerry Weinmaster who finished with 61 tackles and 16 sacks. On Kerry's other side is junior Dan Pensick who came on late in the season to win the starting job. Three other solid players are Bill Barnett, David Clark and Oudious Lee, who will play often to rest

(continued)



All-Big 8 quarterback Thomas Lott is said to be the key to the smooth operation of the Sooner scoring machine. Many say that if a team can contain Lott and his tremendous running ability, the Sooners can be beaten.



Another All-Big 8 selection is middle guard Reggie Kinlaw. He had 120 tackles for the season—not bad considering Oklahoma played mainly offense all year long.

Horn, Weinmaster, and Pensick. The defensive line provides strength where the Huskers lacked it last season.

LINEBACKERS: The public address announcer at the Orange Bowl will probably tire of saying the names Daryl Hunt and George Cumby when the Sooners are on the defense. Both were all Big 8 selections as Hunt finished with 145 tackles and Cumby had 114. Two great football players that play an important part in the OU defense. The Huskers also have a couple of standout's in Lee Kunz and Bruce Dunning. Kunz is the Huskers leading tackler for the second year in a row with 120 total. Dunning was one of the big surprises for the Huskers this season as he had 106 tackles. How well the linebackers play could make a big difference in the outcome of this Orange Bowl game.

DEFENSIVE BACKS: In the Oklahoma backfield is a consensus All-Big 8 performer in Darroll Ray who is seventh in the nation in passes intercepted with 7. You can bet Ray will be in the corner of Sorley's

eye when he drops to pass. The Huskers All Big 8 performer is monster back Jim Pillen, the ABC-TV defensive player of the game in the Shootout. He leads the Huskers in backfield tackles with 57. The Huskers will start Tim Fischer and Andy Means in the corners and either Jeff Hansen or Russell Gary at safety. The Sooners will have Basil Banks and Jay Jimerson at the corners and strong safety Mike Babb. Banks has 60 total tackles.

KICKING GAME: The Sooners Uwe von Schamann is considered to be one of the top placekickers in the country and the consensus All Big 8 choice. He has hit on 59-59 extra points and has kicked seven field goals. Nebraska's Billy Todd is also an outstanding kicker as he has connected on 42-44 extra points with ten field goals. Both are outstanding kickers with von Schamann having the stronger leg. In the punting game you have to call it even as NU's Tim Smith and OU's Darroll Ray have nearly identical averages.

RETURN GAME: The Huskers have an

explosive return game with Kenny Brown. Brown ranked third in the country in punt returns with a 14.6 average. Returning punts for the Sooners is Freddie Nixon who has a 10.1 average. Both are also explosive kickoff return men.

COACHING: Not only will the Orange Bowl match up two of the finest college football teams in the country, but also two of the finest coaches in college football. Tom Osborne, in six years of coaching, has a record of 55-15-2 for a winning percentage of .763. This season Osborne was named Big 8 Coach of the Year by both AP and UPI. Osborne and his staff have won four of five postseason bowl games. This will be his first Orange Bowl as head coach. Barry Switzer is no stranger to the Orange Bowl and has a career coaching mark of 61-6-2 in six years of coaching. Switzer has defeated the Huskers everytime he has played them except this season. He is 5-1 against the Huskers. In this department, neither team has an advantage.

YOU'RE THE COACH

HUSKERS

SOONERS

1978 SEASON RECORD: 9-2

1978 SEASON RECORD: 10-1

COMMON OPPONENTS:

NU 63, Kansas 21; OU 17, Kansas 16
 NU 23, Iowa State 0; OU 34, Iowa State 6
 NU 48, KSU 14; OU 56, KSU 19
 NU 52, Colorado 14; OU 28, Colorado 7
 NU 21, Okla. State 14; OU 62, Okla. State 7
 NU 31, Missouri 35; OU 45, Missouri 23
 NU 17, OU 14; OU 14, NU 17

1978 CUMULATIVE STATISTICS

RUSHING:

TCB	YG	YL	NYG	AV	TD
699	3931	216	3715	5.3	40

PASSING:

PA	PC	PI	YDS	PCT	TD
198	116	8	1800	.586	13

TOTAL OFFENSE

PLAY	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	G/AVG
897	3715	1800	5515	501.4

RECEIVING:

NO	YDS	AVG	TD
116	1800	15.5	13

RUSHING DEFENSE (Opp. Net Rush.)

TC	YG	YL	NYG	AV	TD
542	2075	418	1657	3.1	16

PASS DEFENSE (Opp. Net Passing)

PA	PC	PI	YDS	PCT	TD
227	97	13	1520	.427	9

TOTAL DEFENSE:

PLAY	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	G/AVG
769	1657	1520	3177	288.8

PUNTING:

NO	YDS	AVG	LONG
78	3070	39.4	50

FUMBLES/LOST: 40/21

PENALTIES/YDS: 58/551

1978 CUMULATIVE STATISTICS

RUSHING:

TCB	YG	YL	NYG	AV	TD
721	4978	269	4709	6.5	36

PASSING:

PA	PC	PI	YDS	PCT	TD
95	35	8	679	.368	8

TOTAL OFFENSE:

PLAY	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	G/AVG
816	4709	679	5388	489.8

RECEIVING:

NO	YDS	AVG	TD
35	679	19.4	8

RUSHING DEFENSE (Opp. Net Rush.)

TC	YG	YL	NYG	AV	TD
579	2302	361	1941	3.3	20

PASS DEFENSE (Opp. Net Passing)

PA	PC	PI	YDS	PCT	TD
272	116	26	1184	.426	6

TOTAL DEFENSE:

PLAY	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	G/AVG
851	1941	1184	3125	284.0

PUNTING:

NO	YDS	AVG	LONG
39	1492	38.2	58

FUMBLES/LOST: 57/33

PENALTIES/YDS: 80/762

You're the Coach is designed to give you statistical information that will help you in evaluating the Huskers and the Sooners strengths and weaknesses. Combined with more detailed information from the scouting report, you should be able to accurately map out the strategy that must be employed if the Huskers are going to win the game. By no means are these statistics complete—they do not take things like emotion and momentum into consideration—but we have carefully selected these statistics as the ones most important to a team's overall success or failure.

Little can be said about the rushing of these two teams, except that both are awesome on the ground. Statistically the advantage would have to go with the Sooners because of the unpredictable explosiveness of Billy Sims. In the passing game the nod goes to Nebraska hands down. In fact, a potent aerial attack may just be the secret to the Huskers' success in Miami.

The Huskers are better against the run while the Sooners are better against the pass and this is the statistic that really evens up this match. Each team's offensive advantage is absorbed by a defensive strength on the other side—many would have to say that there could not be two more evenly matched teams in the entire nation.

The kicking games of both teams are strong with Oklahoma holding a slight advantage. The only real difference, and this statistic came out to be the clincher in the first contest, is in the turnover department. Oklahoma has fumbled the ball 17 times more than Nebraska this season and has lost their fumbles 12 times more. Obviously, with two ball control teams, field position and momentum are extremely important to putting points on the board.

Still, statistics cannot tell the whole story and the game must be played to bear out any armchair quarterback's theories. What is presented on this page are merely the facts that every coach must look at when determining the game plan that will propel his team over and beyond to victory.

Below are listed the advantages as seen by a member of the NU coaching staff. Do you agree or would you change it?

NU	Position	OU
	Running Backs	X
	Q.B.	X
X	Receivers	
	Kicking	X
X	Offensive Line	
X	Defensive Line	
	Defensive L.B.	X
	Defensive Backs	X
	Home Team	
	Experience	X
X	Specialty Teams	
	Intangibles	X

Who's going to win? That's for you to decide, because "You're the Coach." Good Luck!!

KEY MATCH-UPS

COACH'S COMMENTS



"Though our preparation has been hampered by weather, we'll have eight full days in Miami. Our team will be ready for Oklahoma."

Tom Osborne

"I know we're the best football team in the country. If it wasn't for three yards, everyone else would know it too."

Barry Switzer



Billy Sims

Lee Kunz



In typical Husker-Sooner action, Bruce Dunning dumps Heisman Trophy winner Billy Sims. Sooner David Overstreet unleashes a crunching block on Husker defensive tackle Rod Horn. After all the hitting was over, it was the Huskers that had the victory.

Mike Hlevyack photo

THE SEASON THAT COULD HAVE BEEN

by Bill Bennett

GAME ONE

Birmingham, Ala. (Sept. 2, 1978) Nebraska's Cornhuskers traveled to Birmingham to open the 1978 season against Paul "Bear" Bryant's Crimson Tide and the Tide showed why they were ranked No. 1 pre-season in the nation as they turned back the luckless Huskers, 20-3.

With a national ABC-TV audience and a record crowd of 77,023 looking on, Nebraska jumped to an early 3-0 lead on a 48-yard field goal by Billy Todd with 8:14 left in the first period. Nebraska had moved to the Alabama 31-yard line on its first possession before the drive stalled and the Huskers settled for the field goal.

The teams played evenly in the sweltering heat until midway through the second quarter when Alabama had a 99-yard, seven minute drive with Major Ogilvie

catching a four-yard Jeff Rutledge pass for the score with 3:06 left in the half.

In the second half, Alabama controlled the line of scrimmage and scored two more times. The Crimson Tide added their second touchdown in the third quarter when an intercepted pass led to a 39-yard drive with halfback Tony Nathan going over from the one.

Another Husker turnover resulted in the final Tide score. When NU fumbled on its own three-yard line late in the fourth quarter, Alabama recovered the miscue and scored three plays later on a one-yard Rutledge run.

Though the Crimson Tide outgained the Huskers 318 yards to 174 yards, George Andrews was named ABC Chevrolet Defensive Player of the Game for a stellar performance that saw him in on 19 tackles.

GAME TWO

Lincoln, Nebr. (Sept. 9, 1978) The Cornhuskers came back from their opening loss the next week to beat a tough California Golden Bears team, 36-26.

With 75,980 red-clad fans looking on (the 94th straight sellout) the Golden Bears drew first blood when the Huskers fumbled the ball on their own 20-yard line and California recovered. A 12-yard pass from Rich Campbell to Floyd Eddings put the Bears on top, 7-0.

The Cornhuskers tied it up before half-time with some nifty ball handling. Quarterback Tom Sorley pitched to I. M. Hipp who in turn pitched back to Sorley who then passed 57-yards to wingback Kenny Brown. Nebraska scored five plays later with Sorley sneaking over from the one. The half ended in a deadlock.

The two clubs traded touchdowns in the third quarter which set the stage for the explosive final period in which 34 points were tallied. Nebraska scored with only 1:38 gone in the final frame when Sorley hit wingback Maurice McCloney with a 32-yard TD strike. The Huskers came right back in the next 45 seconds to score again when NU defensive end Lawrence Cole recovered a California fumble in the end zone to make it 29-14.

The Huskers scored once more on full-back Andra Franklin's two-yard run with 5:18 to play. California rallied for two more tallies before the clock finished them off. The final was 36-26.

Nebraska was led by I. M. Hipp's 154 yards on the ground and Tom Sorley's 190 yards through the air. NU held the edge in total yardage 492 to 347 for the Bears.

GAME THREE

Lincoln Nebr. (September 16, 1978) Dominating from the opening kickoff, the Huskers used 35 first half points to pull away to an easy 56-10 win over Hawaii.

Everyone got into the scoring act as eight Huskers tallied scores. I. M. Hipp led the scoring off, capping a 78-yard drive in 11 plays with a 10-yard run on the Husker's first possession. Nebraska added touchdowns by Andra Franklin, Tom Sorley, Frank Lockett, and a sensational 52-yard punt return by Kenny Brown to account for their first half blitz of the Rainbows.

The Rainbows capitalized on a Nebraska turnover and the strong kicking leg of Peter Kim to rally 10 third quarter points. But it wasn't nearly enough to slow down the Huskers. With the reserves playing most of the second half, Nebraska rolled up 599 yards of total offense for the day.

The Huskers were now 2-1 and looking forward to a regional ABC-TV game at Indiana. Rumor had it that the Hoosiers were out to husk the Huskers.

GAME FOUR

Bloomington, Ind. (Sept. 30, 1978) Nebraska Cornhuskers completely dominated the Indiana Hoosiers here. The Huskers outplayed the Hoosiers in all areas, beating IU, 69-17. Nebraska gained 613 yards in total offense as they raised their record to 3-1.

A regional ABC-TV audience and 42,738 watching in the rain at Bloomington, had to be impressed as the Huskers scored touchdowns the first four times they had the football. I. M. Hipp, who gained national prominence against Indiana in 1977, scored the first two touchdowns for Nebraska. The N.U. I-back raced in from nine yards for the first score and also in from six yards four minutes later. (continued)



(above) Richard Berns turned in the highest rushing total of his career against Missouri. He carried the ball 36 times for a total of 255 yards. Despite his big day, Berns would rather have won the game. (below) Andra Franklin bursts through the line against Hawaii this year. Nebraska rolled to a 56-10 victory and Franklin gained 49 yards on seven carries.

Ted Kirk photos





The game was decided before the first quarter ended with the Huskers holding a demanding 28-0 lead. NU added a second period TD, two in the third quarter and three more in the final stanza, to make the score NU-69, IU-17.

Hipp—ABC-TV Offensive Player of the Game—gained 123 yards and scored four TD's for the day. Tim Wurth, a second team I-back also contributed two touchdowns as he gained 95 yards. Tom Sorley continued his fine passing attack completing eight of 13 for 168 yards.

GAME FIVE

Ames, Iowa (October 7, 1978) Behind the running of junior I-back Tim Wurth and the Huskers strongest defensive effort to date, Nebraska opened their Big 8 schedule with a 23-0 shutout of border rival Iowa State.

Wurth, who got his first start as a Cornhusker against the Cyclones, made the most of it, carrying 18 times for 102 yards and one touchdown. But Wurth's performance was not the only brilliant one of the day, as the Blackshirts swarmed Iowa State running back Dexter Green, holding the Cyclones all-time leading rusher to just 46 yards on 20 carries. The Blackshirts also limited the Iowa State offensive attack to just 82 yards total offense.

The Huskers used a quarterback sneak by Tom Sorley in the first quarter and a 32-yard field goal by Billy Todd in the second period to post a 9-0 halftime lead. Then, two fourth quarter touchdowns, a 17 yard scoring strike from Sorley to Kenny Brown and 15 yard gallop by Wurth, closed out the scoring for the Huskers.

Again the Huskers rolled to nearly 400 yards offense as they were 4-1 and gaining steadily more recognition.

GAME SIX

Lincoln, Nebr. (October 14, 1978) Nebraska pulled away in the second half to put away the Kansas State Wildcats, 48-14. The Huskers and Wildcats fought a tough battle in the first half, with Nebraska holding a 14-7 advantage at intermission.

The Huskers gained close to 300 yards in the first half but were only able to score twice. Tom Sorley's one-yard run with

(above) Huge Bill Barnett (6-5, 249) intimidates an Iowa State ball carrier in this year's 23-0 win for the Huskers. (middle) Against Kansas State this year, tight end Junior Miller caught 5 passes for 124 yards and one touchdown. He scored on the infamous 54-yard sucker play. (left) I. M. Hipp breaks into the clear in game action against Hawaii this year. Hipp gained 70 yards on 12 carries as the Huskers took the color out of the Rainbows, 56-10.

Ted Kirk photos



Powerful Richard Berns goes high in the air to pick up a crucial first down early in the Iowa State contest. He gained 56 yards on 12 carries for the day. Ted Kirk photo

13:56 left in the first half, gave NU a 7-0 lead. Sorley then passed 54 yards to tight end Junior Miller for the score, with 6:43 left in the half to give Nebraska a 14-0 lead.

K-State scored on a 87-yard pass, with 2:05 left in the first half, from quarterback Dan Manucci to flanker Eugene Goodlow, to narrow the halftime gap to NU 14-KSU 7.

Nebraska broke the game open in the first minute of the second half as the Huskers scored twice. A four yard run by fullback Rick Berns made it 21-7 and then NU recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff and scored one play later to put the game out of reach.

I. M. Hipp had another good day gaining 183 yards, with 113 of those yards in the first half. The offense once again went over the 600 yard mark in total yards with 606. Tom Sorley continued to harass opponents with the pass as he threw for 218 yards, 11 of 16 and two touchdown passes.

GAME SEVEN

Boulder, Colo. (October 21, 1978) Both Nebraska's offensive and defensive units played superbly as the Huskers continued their domination over the Colorado Buffaloes, 52-14.

(continued)



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The Buffs had jumped to an early 14-3 lead on a 100-yard Howard Ballage kick-off return and a two-yard James Mayberry run.

But from that point it was all Nebraska. Two field goals by Billy Todd, two touchdowns by Rick Berns and four other NU scores accounted for the margin of victory.

The Nebraska Blackshirts held the Buffs to 185 total yards and intercepted three passes. Linebackers Lee Kunz and Bruce Dunning led the Huskers with 11 and nine tackles respectively.

The offense tallied 641 total yards, including 463 yards on the ground. Rick Berns paced the Husker backfield with 132 yards and two touchdowns. I. M. Hipp added 92 yards and one score while quarterback Tom Sorley completed 11 of 17 passes for 178 yards and one touchdown.

Place kicker Billy Todd booted three field goals of 27, 24, and 45 yards and added three extra points to lead the Husker scoring attack.

GAME EIGHT

Lincoln, Nebr. (October 28, 1977) Oklahoma State traveled to Lincoln with just a 2-5 record, but the always tough Cowboys almost came away with a tie against the No. 5 nationally ranked Nebraska Cornhuskers. But thanks to a fine kicking effort by Billy Todd, Nebraska turned back a late fourth



Split end Frank Lockett streaks into the end zone after receiving a touchdown bomb from Husker Tom Sorley.

Ted Kirk photo

Looking for daylight over the outstretched arms of Oklahoma State defenders, Tom Sorley barely gets the pass off in time. Sorley was 10 of 17 for 99 yards as the Huskers crept by the Cowboys 22-14.

Mike Hlevyack photo



quarter Oklahoma State drive at the Husker 19 yard line to salvage a 22-14 win.

Oklahoma State took their first possession of the game and pushed down the field 80 yards to take an early 7-0 lead on a 13-yard run by Ed Smith. The Huskers were unable to score in the first quarter, but 19 second quarter points put the Huskers comfortably out in front at the half, 19-7. Nebraska scored on a 1-yard run by Tom Sorley and a 20 yard pass from Sorley to Rick Berns. Todd added one extra point and field goals of 23 and 28 yards.

After a third quarter touchdown by Oklahoma State's Terry Suellentrop, Todd kicked his third, three pointer of the day—this one a 42-yarder—with :15 left in the third period to give the Huskers their final eight point winning margin, 22-14.

But the game was far from over as the fourth quarter was filled with fireworks of its own. With 2:33 left in the game, Nebraska had advanced to the OSU 23 yard line, but lost the ball—on a fumble—to the 'Pokes. OSU then drove 57 yards—thanks to a 57-yard screen pass from quarterback Scott Burk to running back Worley Taylor—to the NU 19-yard line. Faced with a fourth and nine situation, Burk scrambled to his right and lofted a pass to OSU split end Mel Campbell, who was all alone in the end zone. But the pass floated over the head of the 5'10" split end and the Huskers were safe with their 22-14 win.

GAME NINE

Lawrence, Kan. (November 4, 1978) The Nebraska offense was as hot as the weather—it scored nine touchdowns—against the Kansas Jayhawks. The 85 degree weather brought out the best in the Huskers as they downed Kansas, 63-21.

The Cornhusker offense set a Big 8 and school record of 799 yards total offense as the inexperienced Jayhawks were no match for the Huskers.

Nebraska led only 7-0 after the first quarter, but erupted for five second period scores to hold a 42-7 halftime edge.

The Huskers scored three times in a five minute span in the second period to put the game out of reach. A one yard quarterback sneak by Tom Sorley, a 64-yard jaunt by Craig Johnson, and a 44-yard pass from Sorley to tight end Junior Miller broke the game open.

Johnson, the NU offensive player of the game, gained 192 yards on ten carries and scored twice to pace the Huskers. A third team I-back, playing because injuries sidelined Rick Berns and Tim Wurth, Johnson also caught a 78-yard screen pass from Tim Hager for a touchdown.

The Nebraska quarterbacks completed ten of eleven passes for 283 yards, and



Richard Berns races through a gaping hole on his way to payday in game action this season. Berns netted 933 yards for the year and scored 10 touchdowns.

combined for four touchdowns through the air.

GAME TEN

Lincoln, Nebr. (November 11, 1978) With 76,015 screaming fans in the stands and millions more watching on national ABC-TV, the Huskers carried the fight to unbeaten and top ranked Oklahoma to gain a 17-14 upset. It was the Huskers' ninth straight victory since losing to Alabama in the season opener.

It was a hard hitting defensive effort that caused nine Sooner fumbles—NU recovered six—and a balanced offensive attack that paced the Huskers to their first win over archrival Oklahoma since the 1971 "Game of the Century." The win

locked up at least a tie for the conference title and a trip to the Orange Bowl January 1, in Miami.

On offense, it was the rugged running of senior I-back Rick Berns who carried the ball 25 times for 113 yards and one touchdown that paced NU. On defense, it was senior monster Jim Pillen, with eight tackles and two fumble recoveries, leading the charge. Others turning in fine defensive efforts were linebackers Bruce Dunning and Lee Kunz, defensive end George Andrews and defensive back Jeff Hansen. For their efforts, Berns and Pillen were named offensive and defensive "Players of the Game" by ABC. Berns and Pillen also received "Big 8 Player of the Week" stipends. (continued)



(above) Andy Means pats Heisman winner Billy Sims on the helmet in almost a thank- you gesture after Sims fumbled for his final time on the NU 3-yard line. Jim Pillen came up with the key recovery as OU was driving for the winning touchdown. (below) Defensive tackle Bill Bryant whoops it up as the final gun sounds and the victory over the Sooners becomes a basic Big Red victory, though it was so much more.

Ted Kirk photos.



It was a total team effort that led the Huskers to a sensational finish that saw Nebraska go ahead, than stave off the Sooners and finally force Billy Sims to fumble at the Nebraska three-yard line with just 3:27 remaining in the game.

Nebraska then ran out the clock—thanks to two first down runs by Berns—to give Husker head coach Tom Osborne his first win over the Sooners.

GAME ELEVEN

Lincoln, Nebr. (November 18, 1978) After a big win over Oklahoma the previous week, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne was admittedly concerned about the chance of a mental letdown against a tough and upset-minded Missouri. Osborne's worries turned into reality in the form of a 35-31 NU loss at the hands of the Missouri Tigers.

Rick Berns churned to a record breaking 255 yards and two touchdowns on 35 carries to set the Nebraska single game rushing mark and the career rushing record of 2605 yards. But Bern's performance wasn't enough to counter a potent Missouri attack, led by the running of James Wilder, with 181 yards and four touchdowns, and the pass receiving of All-Big 8 tight end Kellen Winslow.

Berns led off the scoring on the first play of the game from scrimmage by ripping off an 82-yard run. The early score was a sign

of what was to come as both teams moved almost at will throughout the game and it was the last team to score that came away with the win.

The loss dropped Nebraska back into a tie for the conference title and later brought a surprising rematch with Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl.

The season ended exactly as it had begun. The first loss to Alabama provided the impetus to carry the Huskers to nine straight wins. In each game they rolled up large totals of yardage and scored many points. The big turn of course was the heart-stopping win over the mighty Sooners. With that win it would have been nice for the Huskers to end their season. Unfortunately, a fired-up group of Missouri Tigers and Nebraska's inability to "get-up" for the finale caused a great surge for the national championship to fail.

Instead of playing Penn State as many thought would be the case, the Huskers must go to Miami and once again face the Sooners—this time OU sports an Outland and Heisman Trophy winner.

It was a great season that could have been one of the best for Osborne. Still, with a win in Miami, Osborne could beat Oklahoma twice in one year. That would make up for all the disappointment in the season that could have been. ■

1978 NEBRASKA CORNHUSKER STATISTICS (11 games)

TEAM	NU	OPP
First downs, rushing	191	90
First downs, passing	80	63
Penalties	11	14
Total first downs	282	167
Rushing, att.	699	542
Yds. gained rushing	3931	2075
Yds. lost rushing	216	418
Net yds. rushing	3715	1657
Per game ave.	337.7	150.6
Passing, att.	198	227
Passes, complete	116	97
Passes, intercepted	8	13
Net yds.	1800	1520
Per game ave.	163.6	138.2
Total offense, att.	897	769
Net yds.	5515	3177
Per game ave.	501.4	288.8
Interceptions, No.	13	8
Net yds. returned	140	124
Punting, No.	48	78
Punts, blocked	0	2
Total yards	1883	3070
Per punt ave.	39.2	39.4
Punts returned, No.	28	15
Net yds.	363	104
Kickoffs returned, No.	29	56
Net yds.	541	1095
Penalties, No.	55	58
Total yds. penalized	554	551
Fumbles, No.	34	40
Fumbles, lost	20	21
Scoring total points	420	185
Per game ave.	38.2	16.8

RUSHING	Att	Gn	Loss	Net	Ave	TD
Berns	164	940	7	933	5.7	10
Brown	24	147	15	132	5.5	1
Franklin	83	429	10	419	5.1	3
Hager	17	66	5	61	3.6	1
Hipp	173	987	51	936	5.4	7
Johnson	37	364	0	364	9.8	4
Kotera	25	117	0	117	4.7	3
McCloney	4	25	0	25	6.3	0
McCrary	9	70	0	70	7.8	0
Quinn	28	202	0	202	7.2	1
Sorley	80	213	127	86	1.1	6
Wurth	53	364	1	363	6.8	4
TOTAL	699	3931	216	3715	5.3	40
OPP	542	2075	418	1657	3.1	16

PASSING	Att	Comp	Pct	Intc	Yds	TD
Berns	2	0	.000	0	0	0
Hager	16	10	.625	0	185	1
Quinn	6	4	.667	1	44	0
Sorley	174	102	.586	7	1571	12
TOTAL	198	116	.586	8	1800	13
OPP	227	97	.427	13	1520	9

TOTAL OFFENSE	No.	Yds.	Ave.
Berns	166	933	5.6
Brown	24	132	5.5
Franklin	83	419	5.1
Hager	33	246	7.5
Hipp	173	936	5.4
Johnson	37	364	9.8
Kotera	25	117	4.7
McCloney	4	25	6.3
McCrary	9	70	7.8
Quinn	34	246	7.2
Sorley	254	1657	6.5
Wurth	53	363	6.8
TOTAL	897	5515	6.1
OPP	769	3177	4.1

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	TD
Berns	11	101	1
Brown	23	367	2
Davies	1	13	0
Finn	3	38	0
Franklin	1	-6	0
Hipp	8	58	0
Johnson	1	78	1
Lockett	11	190	2
McCloney	2	88	1
McCrary	5	58	0
Miller	30	560	5
Smith	19	241	1
Wurth	1	14	0
TOTAL	116	1800	13
OPP	97	1520	9

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Ave.	Blk.
Smith	45	1777	39.5	0
Todd	3	106	35.3	0
TOTAL	48	1883	39.2	0
OPP	78	3070	39.4	2

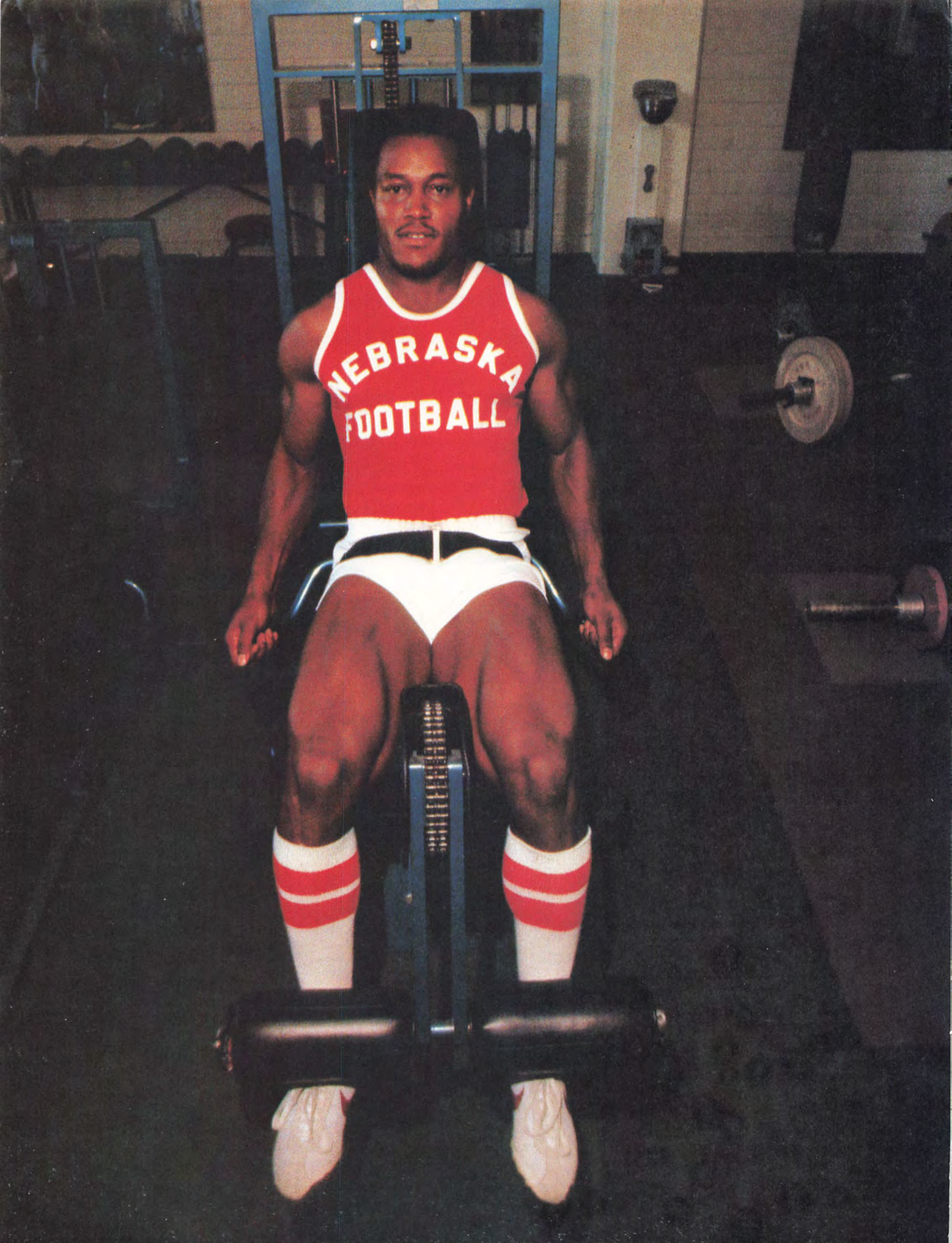
PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Ave.	TD
Brown	19	278	14.6	1
Cole	1	8	8.0	0
Dunning	0	0	0.0	1
Liegl	2	-6	-3.0	0
Lockett	5	67	13.4	0
Nelson	1	16	16.0	0
TOTAL	28	363	13.0	2
OPP	15	104	6.9	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Ave.	TD
Berns	3	61	20.3	0
Brown	13	236	18.2	0
Lockett	13	244	18.8	0
TOTAL	29	541	18.7	0
OPP	56	1095	19.6	1

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	TD
Andrews	1	0	0
Cole	1	8	0
Dunning	1	23	0
LeRoy	1	24	0
Means	3	51	0
Nelson	1	8	0
Fischer	2	3	0
Gary	1	2	0
Hansen	1	0	0
Letcher	1	21	0
TOTAL	13	140	0
OPP	8	124	0

SCORING	TD	Pat-1	Pat-2	FG	TP
Todd		44-42		16-10	72
Berns	11				66
Hipp	7				42
Sorley	6		3-1		38
Miller	5		2-2		34
Wurth	4				24
Brown	4				24
Franklin	3				18
Kotera	3				18
Lockett	2				12
*Cole	1				6
Dunning	1				6
McCloney	1				6
Hager	1				6
Quinn	1				6
Smith	1				6
Sukup		6-6			6
TOTAL	56	50-48	6-3	16-10	420
OPP	26	22-21	4-1	6-2	185

*Fumble recovered in end zone (CA)



TAMING AN ARSENAL OF EXERTION

by Ken Kontor

Sports Illustrated described defense against Oklahoma in the memorable 17-14 Husker victory as "(Nebraska) out-muscled Oklahoma at the line of scrimmage."

This was not an isolated quote. All season Nebraska's offensive and defensive line was heralded by the press for overpowering and out-manning their opponents. Without a doubt Nebraska is physically one of the strongest teams in the country. But this strength did not happen by chance. Years of careful planning and study under the direction of strength coach Boyd Epley has molded the Huskers into this physically awesome Big Red machine.

Coach Epley has calculatingly devised a way to use tons of steel as a vehicle to produce muscle strength. But how?

Most every major college in the country employs a strength coach with a fully equipped weight room. What makes Nebraska unique? The answer quite simply is the system. This article will take a close look at the Nebraska Strength Program and how it works.

Boyd Epley is considered a pioneer in the field of strength training. He has authored three conditioning manuals used nationwide. He was a research investigator for a two-year study on physical fitness funded by the NCAA. Boyd is also the founder and Executive Director of the National Strength Coaches Association.

A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Boyd was introduced to weight training by a high school buddy, Pat Neve, a recent Mr. America title holder. Initially Boyd used weight

(continued)

(left) I. M. Hipp shows off his tremendous quadriceps muscle as he works out on some of the fine NU strength facilities. Even though he has well developed muscles, Hipp is still the fastest man on the team with a 4.4 time in the forty-yard dash. (right) Former Miss Nebraska Guylyn Remmenga trained with Boyd Epley for three months before attending the Miss America

Ted Kirk photo





The circuit weight training room is located near the varsity football team lockers because it is used by many players as a maintenance program during the season.

Ted Kirk photo

training to improve his football and pole vaulting skills. Then Boyd came to Nebraska on a track scholarship. After an injury forced him to hang up his track shoes, Boyd turned exclusively to weight training for rehabilitation, then to competition where he earned such titles as Mr. Mid-America, Mr. Region VII and Mr. Nebraska plus numerous championships in powerlifting and Olympic weightlifting. In 1972 he was honored as weightlifter of the year in the Midwest.

His tenure as a strength coach started nine years ago when Nebraska trainer George Sullivan asked him to develop a program for the football players. At that time he was completing his masters degree in physical education.

In 1975 Boyd's Nebraska career was almost cut short when he accepted a strength coaching position for the Detroit Lions. But Coach Osborne, realizing the importance of a strength coach the calibre of Boyd, made a few quick rearrangements and snatched him from the jaws of the Lions. Net result: Detroit's loss, Nebraska's gain.

Coach Epley is noted for his creative approach to weight training. He has developed special equipment such as the jack (as in a car jack) bench press which allows height adjustments with a flick of a lever—thus accommodating the shortest and tall-

est of athletes. Among other innovations to his credit are the use of special exercises to meet the specific training needs of individual athletes. For example, the "Hipp Press", as Boyd calls it, is a special leg exercise used by I. M. Hipp to help him maintain his tremendous leg strength without putting excess strain on his lower back.

With this background, Coach Epley has been able to develop many facets of the Nebraska strength program. Boyd believes that this system is successful because of three factors: facilities, program, and most importantly, motivation.

FACILITIES: EQUIPMENT FOR EVERY NEED

Big Red has five fully equipped weight rooms on campus with each serving a particular function. According to Boyd, "Our weight rooms are equipped with the latest apparatus with emphasis on atmosphere. To achieve maximum strength gains, it is important that the individual feel good about what he is doing. I know of no better approach than to present the facilities in a neat, bright, well lit area that is laid-out to maximum space efficiency."

The weight room in the North Field house is fully carpeted with astro-turf. Surrounding the players are mirrors, informative charts, and record boards announcing the

strongest players by position in N.U. history (see chart page 25). Music is piped in with an AM/FM cassette stereo.

The equipment used and exercises done in this room are important to overall strength development. Free weights (barbells and dumbbells) are used to strengthen major muscle groups. The bench press and incline press are performed to work the chest area thus allowing offensive linemen extra strength in pass protection. Power cleans (bringing the weight off the floor to the chest) are done to build explosive power that enables linemen to come off the ball quicker and with more authority. For leg development heavy duty machines are used to place maximum emphasis on the thigh by isolating this area.

This modern workout area is the site of weightlifting demonstrations for senior high school recruits and their families on the morning of home football games. The prospects are shown that a good, well organized weight training program is important to the development of strength. Without question, strength, as well as speed, is an integral part of a football player's success.

The circuit weight training room is located in the south stadium where the varsity football team lockers. The purpose of this room is to develop strength and muscular endurance during the off-season. During the season, the circuit room is used

by running backs and receivers to maintain their strength. Premature muscle fatigue is caused by a lack of local muscle endurance and so this maintenance program during the season allows ball carriers to carry the ball more often without becoming exhausted. This is done by limiting the exercise intervals to 20 seconds (from the usual 60 seconds) and reducing the rest intervals between exercise to 10 seconds (instead of unlimited rest). The circuit room is also used by the baseball team for their strength program.

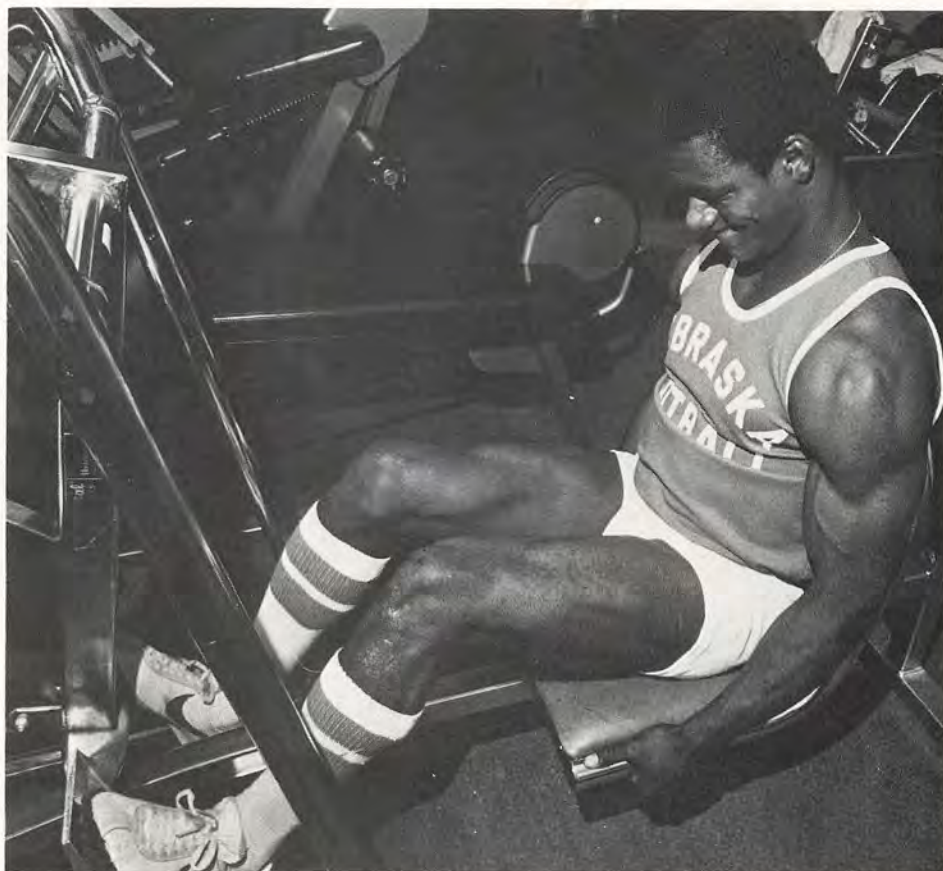
The sports center houses a combination of the south stadium's circuit equipment room and the north fieldhouse's heavy weight apparatus, only on a smaller scale. This sports center room offers a blend of muscular endurance and strength training for all men's sports other than football and baseball. The final two fully equipped weight rooms are located in the old Coliseum.

One room is used by women only and the other by students during physical education classes, recreation, and it is also used as a training headquarters for the N.U. weightlifting team.

Epley credits the management of these facilities to his staff of Mike Authur, Gary Wade, Larry Crouch, and Bill Allerheiligen. Says Boyd, "Without them things would be chaos."

Mike Authur, in addition to his duties at the University, coordinates the Nebraska Penal Complex weight lifting program. Under Mike's direction the prison weight area, which was originally outdoors, has been redesigned into a \$17,000 five indoor-outdoor facility with Boyd Epley doing the layout. Last year, the Prison's powerlifting team placed 2nd in the National Prison Postal Championships. Mike has also set a world's record deadlift of 540½ lbs. at a bodyweight of 132 lbs.

If this myriad barrage of facilities is not enough, mini-facilities are located at sev-



National Strength Coaches Association All-American strength team member Frank Lockett demonstrates the leg press. One of the objectives of Epley's weight program is to increase body weight and strength without losing speed and flexibility.

Ted Kirk photo

eral dormitories across campus. Some of these facilities are equipped with multi-purpose exercise units, others with barbells and dumbbells. These areas allow students to train in the convenience of their own living quarters.

PROGRAM: PUTTING THE FACILITIES TO USE

Nebraska's football strength program is broken down into three phases according to the time of year. The first part is a six

week winter program starting the first week of February. Athletes are tested twice during this period to measure upper body strength, lower and upper body explosive power, cardiovascular endurance and speed in the 40-yard dash.

Tests performed and this year's record holders are as follows:

40 yard dash: I. M. Hipp—4.4 sec.

1½ mile run: Scott Poehling—7:32

Bench Press: Larry Cooley—405 lbs.

Power Clean: Rod Horn—342 lbs.

Vertical jump: Rick Berns—36 inches

Prior to the six week training period, players are interviewed to find their particular needs—whether it be to increase strength and body weight, or just strength. These needs are determined by position coaches. At this time a contract is written in the form of a progress chart for the athletes to follow. To add interest to this rigorous training schedule, a 255 game racquetball tournament is held among the players. Last year's tourney was won by Tom Sorley with All-American tackle Kelvin Clark as runner-up.

Following this six-week program the players are at peak condition and ready for

(continued)

Rod Horn, shown here cleaning a team record 342 pounds, received the prized "Lifter of the Year" award for 1975-76 when he was only a freshman. He is the only freshman to date to ever receive the award.

Ted Kirk photo





Boyd Epley not only coaches the players, he also inspires them on by working right along side them. By making weightlifting more than just pumping iron, athletes can see tremendous improvement in their abilities. Epley, shown here working with two 100-pound dumbbells, is a national leader in weight training.

Ted Kirk photo

MOTIVATION PLAYS A KEY ROLE

"Our facilities and programs are as good as any in the country," Coach Epley states. "The key is motivation. You must motivate the athlete to do his best and reach his goal or full potential."

The motivational factors are numerous but they all point to achieving that goal. Included in these factors is a monthly newsletter which is especially effective in the off-season and during the summer. Coach Epley reports the progress of the players so that everyone knows who is making the best progress.

Since it's easier for a group to motivate an individual than an individual to motivate himself, a summer "Studs Only" club was organized by Coach Epley in Lincoln. The club's charter members, George Andrews, Bruce Dunning, Kelvin Clark, and Barney Cotton, along with Boyd, met three days a week after work to "pound iron".

At the end of the summer, membership swelled to over 50 with Kelvin Clark and Barney Cotton gaining 30 and 39 lbs. of muscular body weight respectively. "Being able to work together and push each other is the best way to make strength gains. It also promotes a certain team unity that just

isn't possible training alone," Epley explains.

Another prime motivator is the "Lifter of the Year Award". This award announces the football player who has shown the greatest improvement during the winter training program.

"Everyone is after this one," says Boyd. "We make a big effort to recognize the winner with media play and a presentation ceremony with the winner receiving a plaque from Coach Osborne in front of the entire team." The 1978 lifter of the year was Kelvin Clark.

T-shirts are used to motivate players to obtain certain levels of proficiency in the bench press. Each level is awarded with a different color shirt. A 375 lbs. lift receives a black shirt and a 400 lbs. success the elite Big Red shirt.

Even computers are used to motivate. An analysis of strength and body weight is formulated in a power ratio that tells Coach Osborne and his staff who is achieving their strength potential as it relates to their body weight. Credit is given to this method for the improvement of All-Big 8 tight end Junior Miller. After he scored low on the power ratio, the coaches were able to motivate Junior to work harder and get closer to his full potential. His bench press increased 50

lbs. over the summer. He is just 5 lbs. from the tight end record and soon should become the strongest tight end in Nebraska history.

That's the system. Facilities, program and motivation. They equal results. But coach Epley likes to credit others, "Head trainer George Sullivan, and of course coach Osborne, have really made important contributions to this system." The Nebraska strength program produces results. And the results are there. Nebraska has placed 3 players on the National Strength Coaches Association All-American Strength team. Other results:

Heisman trophy winner Johnny Rodgers says: "I came down from a 4.8 to a 4.4

40-yard dash from doing squats. I can squat 500 lbs. about five times."

Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner Rich Glover says, "Weights helped me to develop my arms, shoulders, and legs, and helped me take on the center."

All-American Willie Harper went from a 4.9 40-yard dash to a 4.6 and gained 21 lbs. of body weight through weight training.

All-American All-Pro John Dutton gained 43 lbs. and reduced his 40 time from 5.1 to 4.8 through weights.

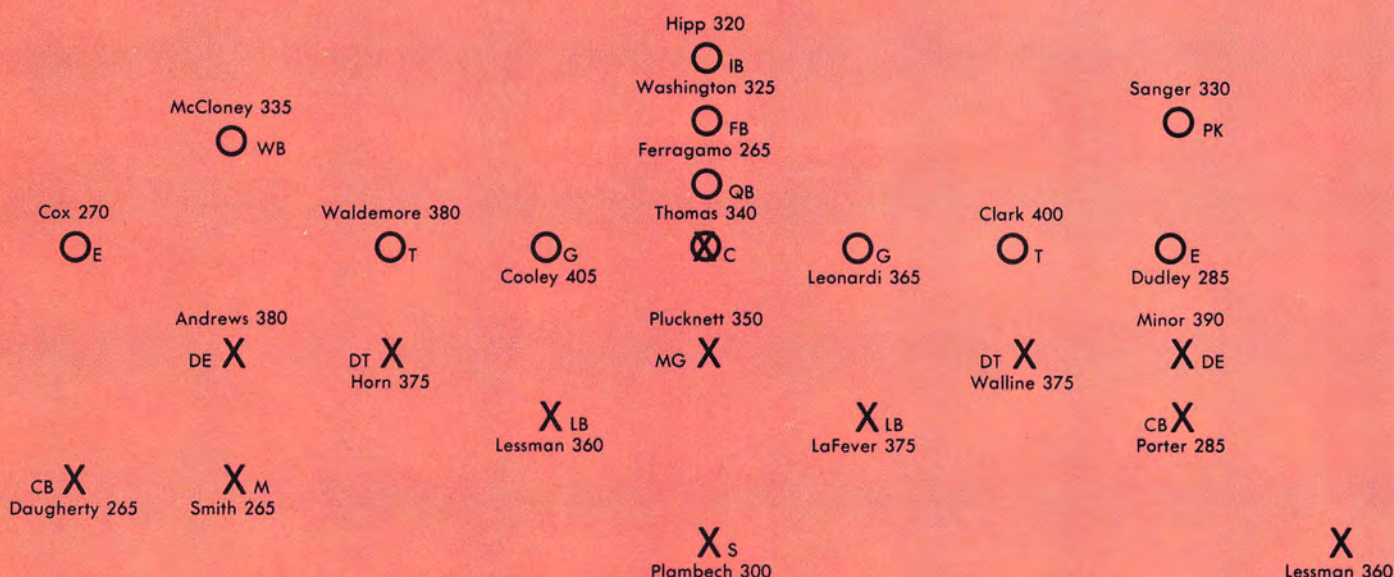
All-American Rik Bonness gained 44 lbs. of body weight.

All-American Vince Ferragamo is the strongest quarterback in Nebraska history with a 260 lbs. bench press.

Space does not allow to print all the results produced by the Nebraska strength program but one thing is certain, the system works.

Junior high school, high school, and other colleges have benefited from this program. Major universities have hired Boyd's assistance. Such schools of note as University of Arkansas, S.M.U., University of Miami, Washington State, Ohio State, University of Wyoming, University of Oregon, University of Missouri, and Arizona State University have coaches from the Epley school. If you would like more information about the Nebraska system contact Boyd Epley at 211 South Stadium, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588. ■

Nebraska Football Team Bench Press Records



Nebraska Football Team Power Clean Records



Tom Osborne Report



Involved in some sideline strategy with Tom Sorley, head coach Tom Osborne knows he must take an active role in formulating his team's direction. He also knows the key to motivating young men and getting the most out of their potential.

by Bill Bennett

Being a doctor of educational psychology, Nebraska head football coach Tom Osborne knows that "time heals all wounds." And that's exactly what he expects will happen to his Husker football team when they line up against the Oklahoma Sooners on Jan. 1 in Miami's Orange Bowl.

"Losing to Missouri was a big enough jolt for all of us," said Osborne, the 1978 UPI

and AP Big 8 Coach of the Year. "But then to hear 90 minutes later that we were going to have to play Oklahoma again in the Orange Bowl, was like kicking a good man when he was down. I'm glad we didn't have to play the Sooners the next Saturday."

And now, awaiting Osborne—completing his sixth season at NU with a 55-15-2 mark—and his Huskers is the biggest challenge ever presented to a Nebraska football team—defeating Oklahoma twice

in the same season. When just five weeks ago, Osborne's first victory ever over the Sooners was the sweetest of his career.

It was Nov. 11, on a cold and windy day in Lincoln, and the No. 4 ranked Nebraska Cornhuskers were hosting the top-ranked Oklahoma Sooners. It was a brawl down to the end—with Nebraska's Blackshirt defense doing most of the hitting—and before a sellout crowd and a national TV audience, the Huskers beat OU, 17-14.

Following the victory, on Monday, the dominoes fell into place for the Huskers. The Orange Bowl committee announced that it would select Nebraska as the Big 8 representative and Joe Paterno, coach of the new No. 1 ranked team—Penn State—said that he would play Nebraska in the Orange Bowl for the national title if the Huskers defeated Missouri on Nov. 18 in Lincoln.

But football games don't always turn out like the Husker fans want them to and that Saturday in Lincoln was one of those days for Nebraska. Missouri—coached by former Cornhusker staffer Warren Powers—traded touchdown for touchdown with the

Huskers and came up on the winning side of a 35-31 score.

After the game, in a sullen and silent—the NU players had already left—Nebraska locker room, Osborne was informed of the Orange Bowl's choice as Nebraska's opponent, the Oklahoma Sooners.

"I was definitely surprised," Osborne said at the time. "The thought hadn't even crossed my mind, it came completely out of the blue. I guess when you beat them one time in seven years—being asked to do it twice in a matter of weeks is asking to do a lot. But I guess if we can do it, it would be some accomplishment."

Now, five weeks later, Osborne said that

it's the accomplishment—beating Oklahoma twice in the same year—that will be the Huskers' rallying cry and carry them into the Orange Bowl with victory on their minds.

"We can be the only team in major college history to beat another conference member twice," he said. "And look at the circumstances, playing in a bowl game before a national TV audience. Oklahoma keeps saying that they want us badly, but I'll tell you what, after everything our players have been through the last few weeks, we're going to be ready for Oklahoma on January 1—you can count on that." ■

Dec. 31
7:00pm

ORANGE BOWL SHOW

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THE
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OSBORNE
SHOW



Jan. 7
10:30pm

ORANGE BOWL HIGHLIGHTS

The Husker/Sooner rematch

CIPRIANO LOOKS FOR A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR

by Thomas Horton

The 16th edition of Joe Cipriano basketball is underway at Nebraska and the team seems to have, for openers, at least eight good reasons to expect great success this year. Nebraska returns eight lettermen to the campaign trail this year, including three full-time and two part-time starters, while losing only one front liner (Terry Novak).

Off to a fast start with victories over Alabama-Birmingham (64-55), Arkansas Tech, (70-59), and highly rated Minnesota (58-48), the Husker hoopsters floundered against Purdue, 47-58. At press time big games were up and coming against rival Creighton, California State-Sacramento, and Mississippi, before the start of two big holiday tournaments that will keep the Huskers on the road from Decemer 22nd. until January 13th. The success of this year's team on the road will be important to their overall success in the league.

In order for this year's team to live up to last year's record, they are going to have to beat some rather impressive marks. All the 1977-78 Nebraska basketball team did was:

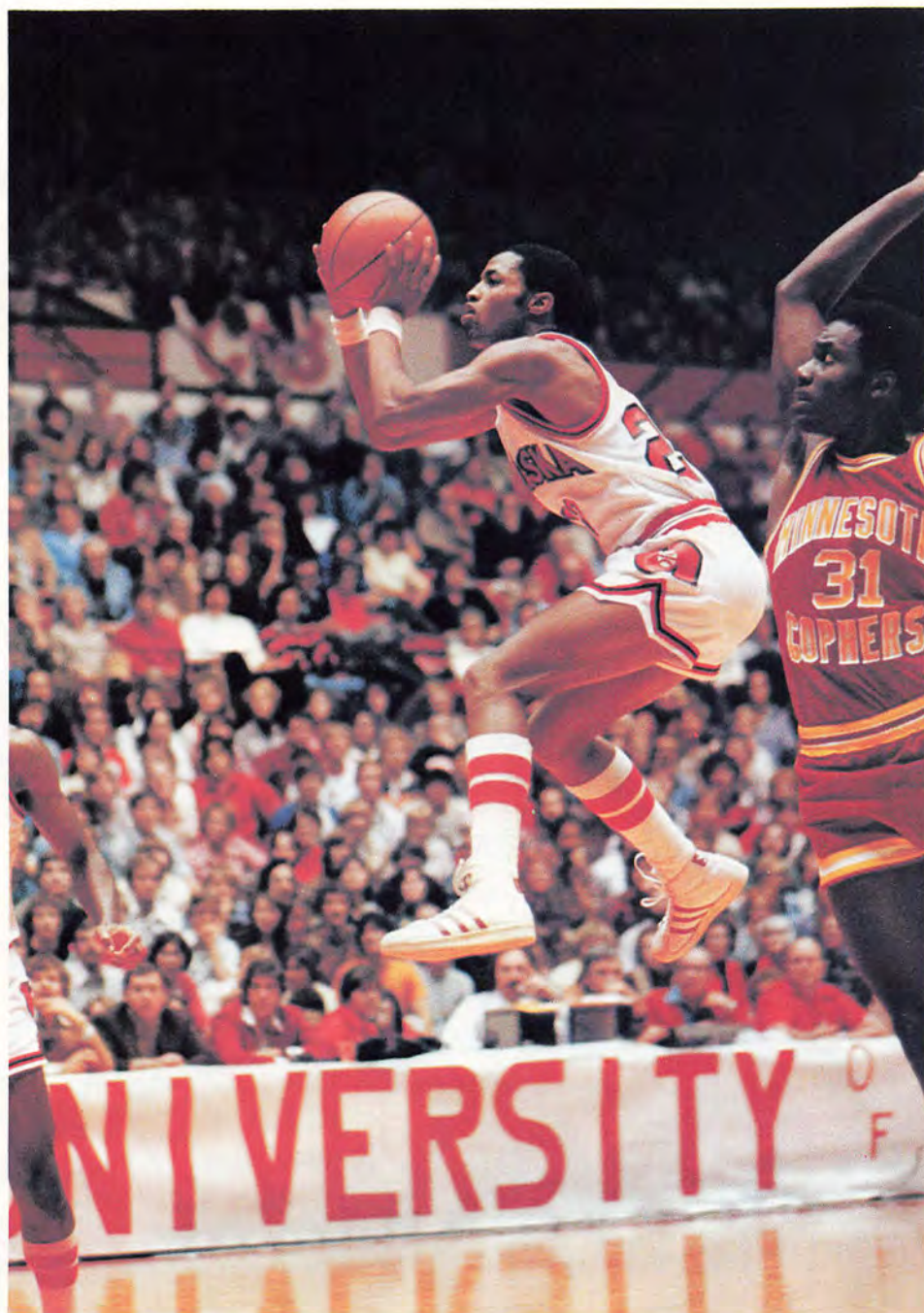
- Wind up with a 22-8 overall record, tying the Husker mark for most wins in a season.

- Finished in a second place tie in the Big 8 with Iowa State, as both schools had 9-5 league marks. That was the highest Cornhusker placement in the conference since 1966.

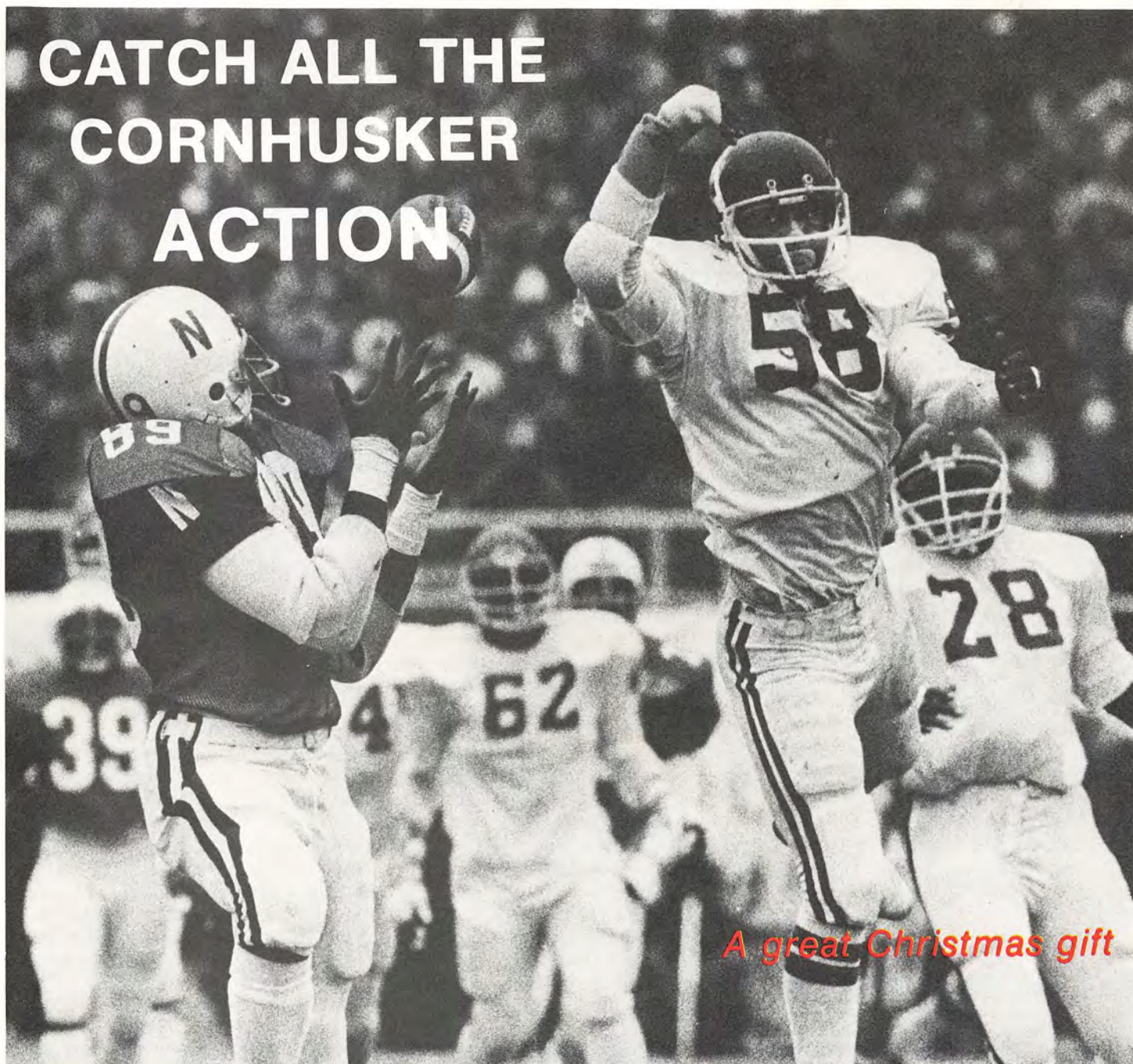
- Participated in the school's first post-season tournament since 1967, as the Huskers advanced to the second round of the National Invitational Tournament

Team leader and shooter extraordinaire, Brian Banks goes high in the air for a shot against Minnesota. Banks is one of the keys to the Huskers' success in league play this season.

Ted Kirk photo



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before losing to the eventual champion Texas in a game at Austin.

—Win for Cipriano the UPI 1978 Big 8 Coach of the Year award, the second time in his conference career that "Cip" has earned that prestigious award.

Cipriano will be counting heavily on two seniors from Hammond, Indiana, the infamous "Hammond Hustlers" to lead the way towards winning the Big 8 this year.

The smaller of the Hammond duo, Brian Banks (6-0), did everything for the Huskers last year. He directed the offense, got in his scoring licks and also defended the opposing team's best guards. Averaging 14.0 points and 3.2 assists a game last season, Banks was named first team UPI All-Big 8.

"Banks is probably the most complete player we've had at Nebraska in a long time," said head coach Cipriano. "This year we hope to be able to involve Brian more directly with the offense and let somebody else play the point. This should give Brian more scoring opportunities." Though only averaging about 10 points a game this season, Banks is leading the team in assists and minutes played.

Banks put in so much time last year that he tended to tire out as the long season wore on. Cipriano thinks he has the answer to this problem in the guise of 5-9 freshman Jack Moore. Against Arkansas Tech this season Moore showed his stuff as he pumped in 14 points en route to the Huskers' victory. Sophomore guard Mike Naderer (6-0) will also be used in relief of Banks, but if necessary, he can come right in and lead the show for the Huskers. Give him some more experience and he'll be a good one.

Senior Bob Moore is a rugged performer who gives his all every minute on the floor. Last season he was the fourth best scorer on the squad.

Ted Kirk photo



The taller half of the Hammond Hustlers is awesome Carl McPipe (6-8). The last two years McPipe has led the team in scoring (15.3) and rebounding (7.9). Carl's accomplishments earned him a first team berth on the U.S. Basketball Writers Association All-District Five team and he was chosen by the Citizens Federal Savings Athletic Foundation as one of its 12 1978 All-American centers.

"When Carl gets things rolling, he ranks as one of the best centers in the country," Cipriano said. "Because of his quickness and jumping ability, he can do some things inside that other big men can't. His quickness and deception underneath are what enable Carl to compete on an even level with some of the really good centers in the country."

So far this season McPipe has had to play Purdue's 7-1 pivot Joe Barry Carroll and Minnesota's Kevin McHale (6-11). A big day for McPipe will come January 27th, when he takes on Kansas' Paul Mokeski (7-1) in an NBC-TV Game of the Day broadcast. This will be a match-up between the two best centers in the entire Big 8. Mokeski, a veritable Incredible Hulk, showed his worth last season when he out-pointed and out-rebounded UCLA's David Greenwood in the NCAA regional tournament. McPipe, on the other hand, and that is if his hand is healed from an early season collision that required three stitches, will have to rely on his speed and jumping ability to overcome the height advantage of other big men in the league.

The last two years have shown that McPipe must not pick up early fouls if the team is to hold on for the win. Last season he had foul trouble in 19 of 30 games. Many attribute his foul trouble to over aggressiveness and lack of body control. In the loss



Although he suffered an injury early in the season that required stitches, Carl McPipe is coming into his own and dominating the middle of the Nebraska squad. However, against Purdue he had foul trouble and it meant a loss for the Huskers.

Ted Kirk photo

against Purdue, McPipe was forced to the bench early in the second half with three fouls—the team obviously suffered. If he stays healthy and out of foul trouble, expect him to be the best overall center in the Big 8.

Andre Smith may have been the best substitute in the entire country last season as he came off the bench numerous times to lead the Cornhuskers to victory. As an alternate, Smith was the team's third leading scorer and second leading rebounder. As a

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starter this year, 6-7 Smith is leading the team in scoring with a 13.0 average and he is also a team leader in the rebounding department. Against Arkansas Tech, Smith, filling the vacancy for injured Carl McPipe, poured in 12 of 14 from the floor for a career high 26 points. Andre "Super Sub" Smith has now gained a starting role for the Huskers and if he continues to play like he has been, there will be nobody around to take him out of his spot.

At the other forward is graduate student starter Curt Hedberg (6-8). Entering his second year as a starter. Hedberg averaged 6.8 points and 4.1 rebounds a game during the 1977-78 campaign. In 1978 Curt was an Academic All-Big 8. In the opener against Alabama-Birmingham, Hedberg poured in 10 points; the next night against Arkansas Tech he grabbed down a team-leading 6 rebounds in the Husker victory.

Nebraska's new recruits, six in all, will also have something to say about the Huskers' game plan in 1978-79. Oldest of the bunch is sophomore guard-forward Bryon Williams (6-5), a transfer from Wenatchee Valley, Washington, Junior College.

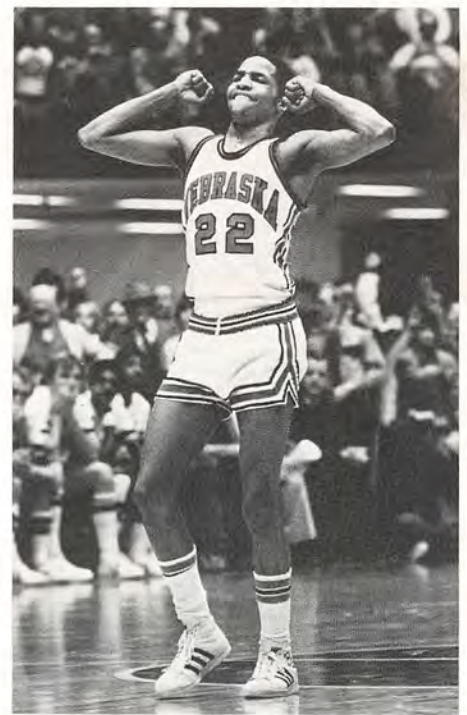
Leading the freshman pack are Jack Moore (5-9) and forward Jerry Shoecraft

(6-6), both from Muncie, Ind. Last March, Moore and Shoecraft led Muncie Central to the Indiana State Basketball Championship. Moore was voted the MVP of that state tournament. It looks like Cipriano has gone to the Hoosier state this year and replaced his "Hammond Hustlers" with another dynamic duo, call them the "Muncie Menaces."

Ray Collins (6-3), and forwards Bill Cunningham (6-5) and Sammy Curran (6-7) round out the field and Husker roundball frosh.

From a team view, Nebraska will continue to play their defensively tough game that has characterized Cipriano's career. Last season they ranked eighth nationally in team defense and it looks like they will be up there in the top ten again.

The going will be tough, however. "This year's team won't have the luxuries that last year's squad had," Cip said. "Last year's team had a good early home schedule, improved with every game and got some real momentum going into the always tough Big 8 campaign. But this year, we've got to play better earlier in the season against good teams." ■



The intensity of the action erupts in a miscue and it shows up on the face of Brian Banks. His play is essential to the team's success.

Ted Kirk photo

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FALL SPORTS RECAP

VOLLEYBALL—"THE TEAM ABOVE EVERYTHING"

To the casual observer, the fortunes of the 1978 Nebraska women's volleyball team didn't look promising at the midway point of the season when the Huskers had compiled a 14-17 record. But Nebraska coach Terry Pettit and the Husker volleyball team weren't discouraged.

"We played most of the month of October without some key people because of injuries and illness," said Pettit. "The team felt that when we got everyone healthy and had the opportunity to play together on the court that we would become just what we are . . . an outstanding volleyball team."

"It was hard to come home from a tournament and have people just ask if we won or lost," said junior team captain Nancy Grant, an All-Big 8 performer. "We knew how hard we were working to become a good team. This is an extremely dedicated team and we never lost sight of our goals."

One of the teams goals was to win its third consecutive Big 8 Championship, and the Big 8 tournament may have been the turning point in a remarkable season for the Huskers. "People in Nebraska care about the Big 8," said junior defensive specialist

Lucy Axberg, "and we take special pride in being the Big 8 Champions for the third year in a row and retiring the traveling trophy."

Nebraska didn't stop with a Big 8 Championship. A 20-4 surge in the last four weeks of the season carried the Huskers to their first Regional Championship where the team went undefeated against the best intercollegiate teams from Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, the Dakotas, and Nebraska. By defeating Southwest Missouri in the championship match the Huskers not only earned a trip to the National Championship in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, but a seeding in the top twelve teams.

Several Huskers made significant individual efforts to enable Nebraska to become one of the top teams in the country, but Pettit believes that it was a belief in the team—the team above everything else that was the catalyst to an outstanding season.

"We've had some strong individual play," Pettit acknowledged. "Senior Sue Luedtke and junior Nancy Grant may be the best all around players in the region. Sophomore Kim Hermes, Reba Govier, and freshmen Terri Fanouse are very strong at the net. Our setters, junior Ann Haberman and sophomore Lori Melcher have improved tremendously and relate well with their teammates. When we're in trouble sophomore Mindy Martens and freshmen Krys Miles have stepped in and performed well, and Lucy Axberg is probably the best defensive player in the region."

With so much individual talent why is Pettit so eager to emphasize other aspects of



Junior Nancy Grant is a hitter whose size and strength make her one of the best all-around players in the region.

Mike Hlevyack photo



Up for the spike, Ann Haberman shows that modern power volleyball is no longer the gentle game it used to be. Setter Lori Melcher watches her set and Kim Hermes looks on.

Mike Hlevyack photo

the Nebraska team? "There is a very fine line between a mediocre team and a great team," said Pettit. "Sometimes it's luck, sometimes it's injuries, sometimes it's the lack of leadership. But most of the time the difference is in the willingness of the individual to sacrifice individual goals for the good of the team. Maybe sacrifice isn't the right word. It's in feeling and knowing that I am a better player because the person next to me is making the same effort to become a champion."

"As you can tell, I'm quite proud of our athletes," said Pettit. "They come from good homes and good schools where they have learned many of the values that promote teamwork. I can't say that we knew for sure that we would win regionals back when our record wasn't so strong, but we never doubted that we were doing the right things or that we wouldn't make the effort."

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Carol Schenk has a formidable task facing her as she moves from the cross country season into the indoor track portion of her freshman year at Nebraska.

Not only does she have to get the clock in her head to spinning at the right intervals, but those intervals are being switched from miles to meters.

"We're running our workouts in meters now so the girls can get used to thinking in meters during races," said NU women's track coach Carol Frost. "Carol is one of the finest freshmen runners in the nation and is capable of running with the best."

Schenk finished second in the toughest cross country league in the nation, which placed her ahead of such big name runners

as Mary Decker of CU and OSU's Karen Bridges. And places that high in the Big 8 are worth noting.

The Big 8 had four teams in the top 13 at the national cross country meet in Boulder

this fall, including Iowa State, which won an unprecedented fourth straight national crown.

"Our highest hope for Carol was to place in the top 15 and gain All-America status,



In one of the toughest women's cross country conferences in the country, the NU women are hoping to build a program to rival perennial powers Iowa State, Colorado and Kansas.

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and we know she is capable of that," Frost said. "But her inexperience showed at the high altitude.

"She knew she should take the first mile easy, but when Decker took off, Carol went right with her," Frost continued. "Decker has trained at the altitude all fall and could keep her pace. Had the race been at a lower altitude, I'm sure Carol could have maintained her pace and done better."

Even so, the freshman from Davison, Mich., finished 30th in a field of 280. Her 5,000 meter time at nationals was 18:02, almost a minute off her school record time of 17:12 over the same distance at Big 8.

Schenk has even more improvement coming her way if time alone is a factor. She has been running just three years and has already gained the national Junior Olympic cross country title. "With pacing and patience, she'll get that clock in her head and then who knows how well she will do," Frost said.

Schenk paced the cross country team throughout the season, as Nebraska finished third in three of the four meets before Big 8. NU finished fifth in the conference meet behind the four schools which placed at nationals—ISU, Colorado, Kansas and Kansas State. Schenk placed first in three of the four meets with senior Cindy Dixon winning the Husker Invitational. ■

1978 MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

Sept. 30	Kansas State 22, Nebraska 37	Lincoln
Oct. 7	Missouri 18, Nebraska 37	Columbia
Oct. 14	Drake 27, Nebraska 29	Des Moines
Oct. 21	South Dakota State 22, Nebraska 34	Brookings
Oct. 28	Iowa State 26, Nebraska 29	Lincoln



1978 BIG 8 CROSS COUNTRY MEET

Colorado	22	Kansas State	17
Oklahoma	79	Iowa State	135
Kansas	97	Oklahoma State	164
Missouri	111	Nebraska	181

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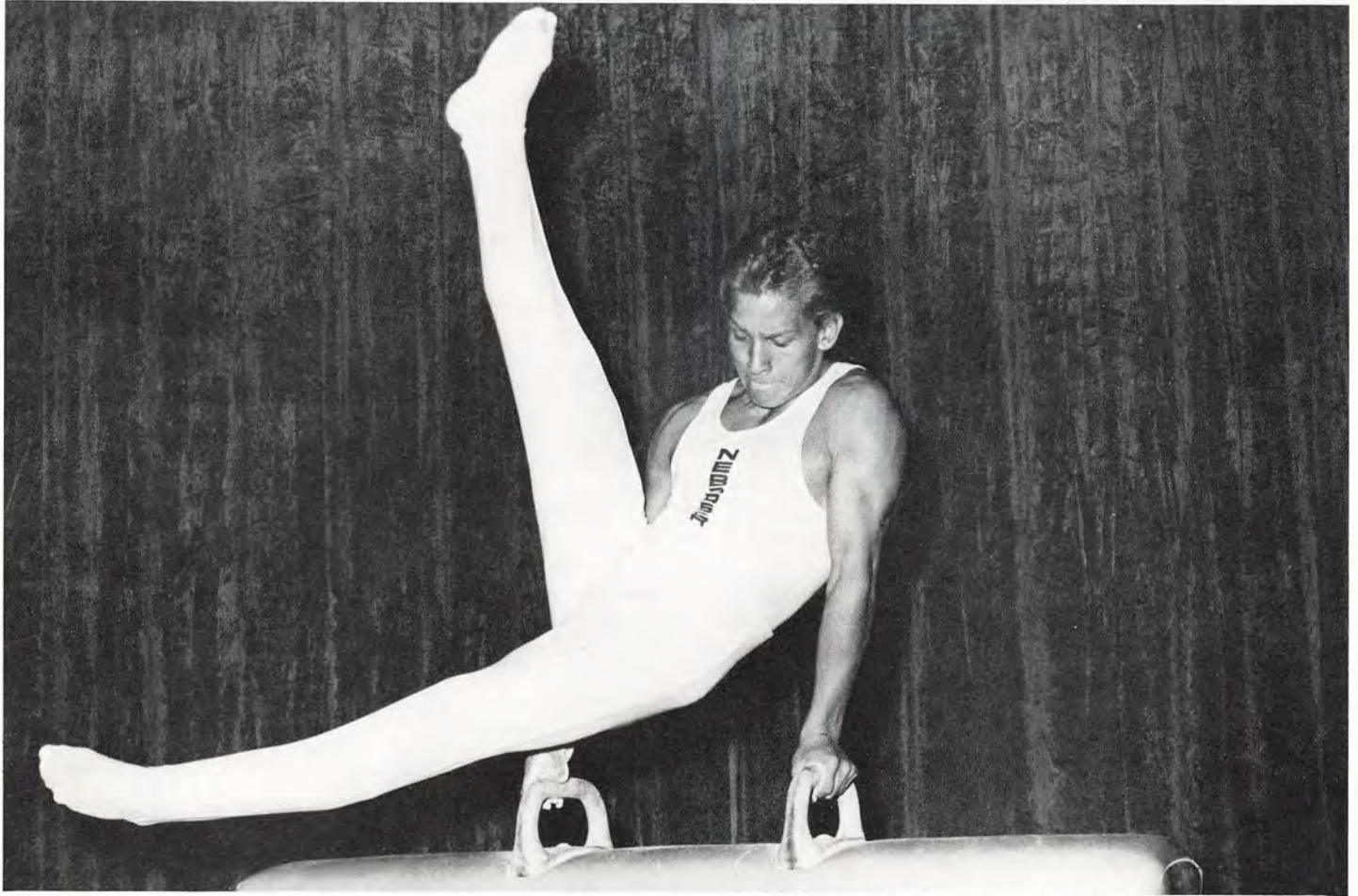
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WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW



Freshman sensation Jim Hartung has already gained much international exposure as a gymnast. With more time he could easily be one of the best gymnasts in the entire country.

GYMNASTICS —

PRE-SEASON FAVORITES TO WIN IT ALL

OVERALL: Nebraska returns 13 lettermen from last year's squad that placed third in the Big 8. But more importantly, the Huskers will feature four of the nation's talented all-arounders, senior All-American Larry Gerard, junior All-American Mark Williams, sophomore Chuck Chmelka and freshman Jim Hartung who last year was the nation's No. 1 ranked prep gymnast. Add to that distinguished list, these specialists—junior Richard Brindisi (floor exercise and vaulting); freshman Steve Elliott (floor exercise and vaulting); seniors,

Terry Nowels and Steve Todd (pommel horse); junior Dunkley (rings) and senior Kirk Fridrich (high bar)—and Husker coach Francis Allen views the 1978-79 season with high optimism.

NU HEAD COACH FRANCIS ALLEN ON HUSKER EVENTS

ALL-AROUND: Gerard, Williams, Chmelka and Hartung—"Gerard and Hartung could very well be the best 1-2 all around punch in the country. As a sopho-

more in 1976, Gerard was an All-American in the all-around, and Hartung, even though only a freshman, already has much experience as an international competitor. Williams and Chmelka complement them very well, as they rank as two of the top promising young all-arounders in the country. Without a doubt, this is the strongest all-around team Nebraska's ever had."

FLOOR EXERCISE: Brindisi, Elliott, sophomore Jim Beal—"Brindisi last year was sixth at the Big 8 and Elliott was the

(continued)



1977 World Age Group (17 years old) Tumbling champion, who will also double as a diver with the swim team. Our specialists here are the highest tumblers we've ever had. Our all-arounders will add a lot of support to this event also."

POMMEL HORSE: Nowels and Todd—"Nowels finished sixth at last year's Big 8 meet and was also the National Junior College champ in 1977, while Todd is a three-year letterman. Another plus in this event is Hartung, who was the pommel horse titlist at this fall's USA-World team tryouts. This event will be improved over what it has been the last several years."

RINGS: Dunkley and sophomore Brian Austin—"Dunkley finished fourth at last year's league meet, while Austin is a returning letterman. Bolstering this event is Gerard's presence, as in 1976 he was an All-American ring performer."

VAULTING: Brinisi, Elliott, Beal, sophomore Mark Hobson—"Brinisi was our top performer in this last year as he placed fifth at the Big 8. Also, at the USA tryouts this fall, Hartung was the vaulting champ. With the mentioned specialists and our all-arounders, we could be outstanding in the vault."

PARALLEL BARS: Brindisi, Beal, Fridrich—"Our all-arounders will pace this event, especially with the experience of Gerard and Hartung. This has not been one of our strongest events over the past years

and we hope to change that this season."

HIGH BAR: Fridrich—"Our best event by far. All-arounder Williams was the 1978 Big 8 champ and also earned All-American honors on the bar last season, while Fridrich placed second in the league and eighth nationally. In addition, Gerard is a two-time All-American high bar performer (1976-77) and a two-time Big 8 high bar champ (1976-77).

SUMMARY: "If I sound optimistic, it's because we have the talent and potential to be very good. I'd rank our individual events in this order—high bar, floor exercise, vaulting, rings, parallel bars and pommel horse. However, before we start getting illusions of grandeur, we don't have to look any farther than our own conference to see how we'll compete against the rest of the gymnastics community. Oklahoma, with all-arounders Bart Connor and Mike Wilson back, is the two-time defending NCAA and Big 8 champ and should be the favorite again this year. Iowa State, with all-arounder Stacy Maloney and pommel horse performer David Graham, without exception, will field another fine team, that will be both Big 8 and national contenders. Looking at the other league schools, Colorado returns all of its good, young talent, and Kansas was the most improved team in the country last year and they have everybody back. For us to be able to prove that we're for real, the

Mark Williams was a high bar champion last year. This year coach Francis believes Mark will do very well in the all-around competition.

first thing that we have to do is get through our own conference. Whatever team gets through the league race might make the rest look easy." ■

NEBRASKA GYMNASTICS 1978-79 Schedule

Nov.	
3-4	Big 8 Invitational, Lawrence
17-18	Windy City Invitational, Chicago
24-25	Midest Open, Chicago
Dec.	
2	Ball State Invitational (All Arounders), Muncie
8-9	Rocky Mountain Open, Denver
26-29	Florida Gym Clinic, Ft. Lauderdale
Jan.	
20	Colorado, Boulder
27	Iowa State with Oklahoma, Ames
Feb.	
10	Kansas, Lincoln
16	Oklahoma, Lincoln
24	Southern Illinois, Lincoln
Mar.	
2	Louisiana State, Lincoln
8-9	Big 8 Championship, Norman
23-24	NCAA Midwest Regional, Ft. Collins
April	
3-5	NCAA Championship, Baton Rouge
May	USA Championship
	National AAU Championship

WRESTLING —

New head coach Bob Fehrs has his work cut out for him as Nebraska enters the 1978-79 wrestling season. The Huskers will be hoping to improve on their 4-6-1 record and sixth place finish in the Big Eight.

Although joining the staff late, Fehrs feels that several quality recruits were lured to the Lincoln campus. "We will be starting a



First year coach Bob Fehrs feels that with more time and better recruiting, he can have a championship team.

new tradition with these young men and expect them to spearhead the resurgence of Nebraska wrestling. The team will be very young with several freshmen making strong bids for starting positions and I am optimistic about this year. A winning record, despite an improved schedule, is our short range goal, along with a stronger finish in the Big 8."

Nebraska will be relying heavily on several returning starters if the season is to be as good as Fehrs hopes. Leading the lettermen are Court Vining and George Mink, who represented the Huskers last year in the NCAA tournament, at 158 and 190 pounds respectively. Eight other lettermen also enhance the Huskers chances. Coach Fehrs thinks, "It is definitely a building year but we are planning to develop more than just the foundation." ■



Court Vining was a Cornhusker representative to the NCAA tournament last year. He wrestled in the 158-pound class.

1978-79 WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Nov. 10 & 11	Great Plains, Lincoln	Jan. 13	Colo. Invit., Boulder
Nov. 18	Bison Open, Fargo	Jan. 19	Drake, Lincoln
Nov. 24 & 25	Okla. Open, Okla. City	Jan. 20	S. D. State, Lincoln
Dec. 1 & 2	Ia. St. Invit., Ames	Jan. 26	Notre Dame, So. Bend
Dec. 8	Oklahoma, Norman	Jan. 27	Purdue/Mich. St., W. Lafayette
Dec. 9	Okla. State, Stillwater		
Dec. 11	Wyoming, Lincoln	Feb. 2	UNO, Lincoln
Dec. 16	Iowa State, Lincoln	Feb. 10	Mo./Central Mo./West Illinois, Columbia
Dec. 22 & 23	No. Ill. Invit., Dekalb		
Jan. 7	Lock Hvn. St., Lincoln	Feb. 24 & 25	Big 8, Ames
Jan. 11	Colo. St., Ft. Collins	Mar. 8, 9 & 10	NCAA, Ames
Jan. 12	Colorado, Boulder		

SWIMMING —

When Cal Bentz took over the Husker coaching reins last spring, it marked the start of a transition period for the Nebraska swimming program. A period that Nebraska swim enthusiasts hope will end with the Husker's rise to prominence in the Big 8 Conference.

Nebraska has finished at the bottom of the standings in the last two conference meets, so the challenge for Bentz is not a small one. However, Bentz is accustomed to success. During the last 15 years at Omaha Westside, his teams captured 11 boys and 3 girls state titles.

With seven letterman, all who scored in last year's Big 8 meet back for the 1978 season, Nebraska's major problem is not lack of talent, but depth. Bentz's initial recruiting efforts were aimed at strengthening that Husker weakness.

Nebraska signed 12 recruits highlighted by six junior college All-Americans and three high school All-Americans. They are: Will Douglas, Bengt Johsson, Jerry Olszowski, Joe Stanfield, Todd Bendkowski, and Lance Green, Mark Diedrick, Steve Elliott, and Rick Rhodes.

The remaining three recruits also have strong credentials. Anders Rutqvist was a member of the 1977 Sweden National team, Guy Foster is a three-time Junior Olympic qualifier and Gary Peters is a Minnesota state silver medalist. Of the group, five have previous times better than five existing Nebraska varsity records.



Senior Co-Captain Goran Westerlund will add experience to a young and building Cornhusker swimming program.

"We've got a good group of recruits with the potential for turning our program around," Bentz said. "We certainly are going to improve our position in the Big 8. I'll be disappointed if we don't."

Nebraska has one of the better swimming facilities in the midwest and Bentz has initiated plans of building a program to equal them.

"How fast that will occur is hard to predict, but I feel we have the potential to make strides in the Big 8 this year," Bentz added. "We've got a school that has begun to show that it's behind us and I for one don't plan on disappointing anyone." ■

1978-79 Swimming Schedule

Dec. 1-2	at Big 8 Relays (Norman)
Dec. 8	at Colorado
Dec. 9	at Colorado State
Jan. 19-20	Nebraska Invitational
Jan. 26	at Iowa State
Jan. 27	at Iowa
Jan. 28	at Northern Iowa
Feb. 2	Chicago State with Oklahoma State
Feb. 3	Missouri (1:30 p.m.)
Feb. 10	at Oklahoma
Feb. 16	at Drury College
Feb. 17	at Kansas
March 1-3	Big 8 Championships

WOMEN'S SPORTS



Ann Rinne is one of the reasons for Ray Huppert's new-found hopes for the women's swimming program.

The launching of the Nebraska women's winter sports balloon was a big success and it wasn't a hot air flight.

First-year coach Lorrie Gallagher led the basketball team to a season-opening 61-46 victory over William Woods while third-year swim mentor Ray Huppert launched his season with a narrow win over Oklahoma. Judy Schalk, also entering her third year with the Huskers, led her gymnastics team to Minnesota where the NU team scored an unusual tie with the ever-strong Gophers.

Gallagher, who came to Nebraska from Feather River College in California, promises a fast-paced basketball team. Bringing some of her starters from a 29-0 season last year in California, the Husker team won't tower over any opponents.

So, in the absence of height, Gallagher has installed a fast break, full-court pressure type of game-plan. "There are lots of things you can do to compensate for lack of height," she said. "We'll use multiple defenses and hope to keep our opponents off balance and confused."

Swim coach Huppert is concerned about balance also, but his problem is the overwhelming balance of the conference. "There are five schools with the potential to win the Big Eight title. Kansas will be the favorite since the Jayhawks have won the meet three straight years, but Oklahoma, Colorado, Missouri and the Huskers all have a shot at the crown."

Huppert's team will meet most of the Big Eight schools in duals or invitationals prior to the loop meet in February, so he and diving coach Jeff Huber will have plenty of time to plan the Husker strategy.

"We have the quality, depth, leadership and winning tradition that could take us to the top," Huppert said. "Some of our upper-classmen are experienced in national competition and our freshmen will fill in the gaps we had last year."

Schalk had a few gaps to fill on her own gymnastics team after losing her top all-arounder from last year.

"We'll have a tough first semester, with a lot of young gymnasts being called on," Schalk said. "But by second semester, the addition of Rene Reisdorff of Omaha Bryan and the needed competition should make us very strong."

The gymnastics team will have to travel to Boulder to defend its Big Eight title after beating the Buffs in Lincoln last year. "The altitude will have some effect, but not as much as in other sports," Schalk said. Senior Peggy Liddick, the defending conference vault champion, will lead the way. "We have a lot of balance in the conference and any team could walk away with the trophy," Schalk said.

Nebraska coaches Gallagher, Huppert and Schalk hope they won't be walking away from opponents this year. Flying in the winter sports balloon would be much better.



Team leader Ruth James shown here in game action against Minnesota.

Peggy Liddick, already has one Big 8 title under her belt. This year she hopes to add another.



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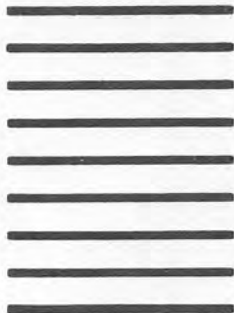
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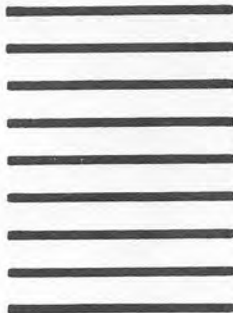
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